

Soviets 'will not copy Star Wars'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Moscow will not try to match the U.S. "Star Wars" anti-missile programme but will build cheaper weapons to counter it, a Soviet military leader said in an interview. "We are not going to take the path that the U.S. administration is trying to force us onto," Col. Gen. Nikolai Chervov was quoted as saying in Sunday's Washington Post. "We have made it clear that we will not ape (copy) the United States" in seeking to develop a high-technology defence against incoming missiles. The Post said Gen. Chervov, a senior department head on the Soviet general staff, gave a pessimistic view of U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in progress in Geneva, characterising them as on the verge of collapse.

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Regent cables good wishes to Eanes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable of good wishes to Portuguese President Ramalho Eanes congratulating him on the occasion of Portugal's National Day. The Crown Prince, in his own name and on behalf of the government and people of Jordan, wished President Eanes continuing success in the leadership of the Portuguese people towards further progress and prosperity.

Shamir slips into Denmark

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir slipped into Denmark Sunday to begin an official visit under a shroud of security. The Danish Foreign Ministry confirmed Mr. Shamir's arrival from France, but would give no other details, and little was known about the schedule for his visit except that he will address a press conference Monday afternoon. Well-placed sources said privately Mr. Shamir arranged to be kept informed on a running basis of developments in South Lebanon where Israeli-backed militiamen were holding 21 Finnish U.N. soldiers hostages.

GCC force to train in S. Arabia

KUWAIT (R) — A joint Gulf defence force will assemble shortly for training at King Khalid Military City in north-east Saudi Arabia. Kuwait's armed forces chief of staff said Sunday. General Abdullah Farraj Al Ghanim told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) the joint force, from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, would assemble in August at the \$5 billion military complex set up in the desert close to the Saudi borders with Kuwait and Iraq.

No progress in arms talks, Rowny says

LONDON (AP) — Top U.S. disarmament official, Lieutenant General Edward Rowny said Sunday there has been no new progress in Geneva talks with the Soviet Union. Asked in a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) interview if there was any good news to report from Geneva, Gen. Rowny, the former chief U.S. arms negotiator and now a special adviser to Secretary of State George Shultz said, "Unfortunately, not yet. I just talked to (current chief Geneva negotiator) Ambassador (Max) Kampelman five minutes ago, and he says he will continue to try but he had nothing new to report yet."

Habash meets Kuwaiti leader

KUWAIT (AP) — Palestinian leader George Habash conferred with the ruler of Kuwait here Sunday, and officials said the two men discussed means of restoring fighting in Beirut refugee camps between Palestinian defenders and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen of the Amal organisation. The leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) also was quoted as asking the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to help reunite the bickering Palestinian factions.

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SLA tightens pressure for release of its men

French UNIFIL officer detained, freed

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen holding 21 Finnish U.N. soldiers hostages Sunday seized a French colonel negotiating for their release, but freed him several hours later on orders from their commander, U.N. officials reported.

The seizure of the French officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Michel Bledjman, tightened pressure on U.N. officials to secure the release of 11 militiamen held by the Shi'ite Muslim Amal movement. The SLA's commander, retired Lebanese Army Brig.-Gen. Antoine Lahd, said later he ordered his men to release the Frenchman. Timour Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said Col. Bledjman, the deputy chief of operations at UNIFIL's headquarters in the South Lebanese port of Naqura, was released in the village of Qantara and flown by helicopter to Naqura. Goksel said the officer was unharmed. The silver-haired Lahd told a news conference in the border town of Metullah that he saw "a sort of progress" in the negotiations to end the crisis. But U.N. sources said that the

bizarre drama that began Friday, when 25 Finnish soldiers were seized by fighters of the SLA, appeared no closer to being resolved. Brig. Lahd stressed that "this regrettable affair will not be over until our men are released." Leaders of the Amal militia holding the 11 SLA men, all Shi'ites, have refused to let them go. The soldiers of the 5,600-man UNIFIL have been caught in the crossfire between the mainly Christian SLA and the Amal militia trying to dislodge them from Israeli's occupation zone in South Lebanon. Beirut newspapers speculated that the hostage seizure was aimed by Israel to pressure the 10-nation UNIFIL, through the ragtag SLA, to withdraw from South Lebanon. Israel has long insisted the UNIFIL, in South Lebanon since Israel's first invasion in 1978, has "outlived its usefulness."

Goksel said Col. Bledjman had been "conducting contacts with the SLA" in the village of Qantara, 10 kilometres north of Israel's border, since the Finns were seized Friday.

The spokesman said Col. Bledjman, exhausted after 48 hours of mediation, Sunday requested he be replaced, "but when he tried to leave he was told he too was a hostage. This is a totally new element."

Seven Israeli army officers went to Qantara to discuss the hostage crisis with SLA officers after Prime Minister Shimon Peres' cabinet said it "will do all in its power to ensure the safety" of the U.N. hostages.

The SLA has freed four of the 25 Finns they seized. The commander of the 490-man Finnish battalion, Col. Veni Hakala, was released Friday after U.N. sources said he had been beaten up.

Three enlisted men, a corporal and two privates, were freed Saturday night on Brig. Lahd's orders as a "goodwill gesture." They were driven out by Col. Bledjman's Irish driver, who said later he "sometimes felt like a hostage too."

Goksel said Col. Bledjman was held with two Finns in Qantara.

(Continued on page 2)

Amal continues assaults on camps; fighting flares on 3 other fronts

BEIRUT (AP) — Militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement kept up their assaults on Beirut's three besieged Palestinian refugee camps Sunday and militiamen shot it out across the green line as Lebanon lurched towards another spasm of anarchy. Gunmen attacked Lebanese army troops in west Beirut in a spate of hit-and-run raids. Police said one person was killed and six wounded in the northern port city of Tripoli in clashes between rival factions in what appeared to be a spinoff of the Amal-Palestinian confrontation in Beirut.

Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt warned there "may be worse days to come" in Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war despite tentative peace effort by President Amin Gemayel.

Amid the spreading clashes, hundreds of Lebanese families ignored the fighting to spend the day on Beirut's beaches.

Police said 18 people were killed and 38 wounded over the weekend in the Beirut hostilities.

Among the dead were 16 killed and 33 wounded in machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade clashes Saturday night and Sunday between Palestinians and Amal

forces who have besieged them for three weeks.

That raised the known casualty toll in the camps war to at least 534 killed and 2,158 wounded since fighting erupted May 19.

On Beirut's other warfront, two people were killed and five wounded as Amal and PSP militiamen shot it out with the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" across the green line that splits the city into mostly Muslim and Christian sectors.

The machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade attacks tapered off at dawn into sniper fire.

The battles erupted again in the afternoon in the Sodeco and Primo neighbourhoods in central Beirut. They forced a brief closure of the nearby museum crossing, the only open gateway between east and west Beirut.

Despite the fresh fighting, security sources said more crossing will be reopened this week to reunite the divided capital in a bid to boost peace plans being discussed by Mr. Gemayel and the leaders of rival factions.

Radios reported that Lebanese army troops fought sporadic gun battles with PSP militiamen around the strategic village of Souq Al Gharb in the hills east of Beirut.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami denounced the spreading violence and called for a cessation of fighting in Tripoli and Beirut.

"Whenever a crime is committed between two persons, bombs and rockets start falling on our heads," Mr. Karami said on the state radio from his hometown of Tripoli.

"This is rejected and unacceptable," he said.

But Mr. Junblatt was quoted by the "Voice of the Nation" radio station as saying he does not see a near end to Lebanon's decade-old civil war.

"Anyone who believes that the solution in Lebanon is near is mistaken," Mr. Junblatt said. "There may be worse days to come."

A Palestinian statement quoted by radio stations said that nine children and three women were among the people killed in the assault on the camps Saturday and vowed to "respond with all means" to lift the siege on the shantytowns.

Shortly after the statement was broadcast, sporadic duels picked up. Palestinian gunmen in the hills east of Beirut lobbed shells into Shi'ite strongholds in the southern suburbs ringing the embattled camps.



RELIEF CONVOY: United Nations trucks carrying water, food and relief supplies enter Beirut's besieged Bourj Al Barajneh camp Saturday after the Shi'ite Amal movement agreed relief supplies to enter the camp for the first time since Amal launched assaults on the camp 20 days ago (AP wirephoto)

Arab League calls for urgent, total ceasefire in Beirut

TUNIS (AP) — An emergency session of the Arab League Council closed here Sunday calling for an "immediate and complete" ceasefire and an end to the siege of the Palestinian camps in Beirut.

It instructed Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Khlifi to contact all parties involved to bring about the ceasefire, and Mr. Khlifi is expected to visit Beirut and Damascus shortly, league sources said.

The communiqué referred to the "deep grief" felt by the Arab League over the serious situation in the camps. It called for the liberation of all people detained and that the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent to evacuate wounded be facilitated.

Mr. Khlifi is to report back to the next regular council session June 24, league sources said.

The meeting was attended by 12 foreign ministers and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which called the session.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Shara'a walked out of the opening session Saturday night, protesting the presence of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The final communiqué was issued in Arabic and French, but only the Arabic version carried a footnote saying the Syrian delegation abstained "in principle" from discussing Lebanese "internal" problems in the absence of a Lebanese delegation.

Shultz rejects Soviet proposal for joint Mideast conference

HAMILTON, Bermuda (Agencies) — Secretary of State George Shultz on Saturday ruled out the Soviet Union's idea of a joint U.S.-Soviet Middle East peace conference, saying there were too many divergent views to produce progress.

Mr. Shultz has always been cool to a peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, but Saturday he went a step further and rejected the Soviets' suggestion of talks by the super powers without U.N. participation.

However, Mr. Shultz said he still was looking for an international "umbrella" that Jordan feels is necessary for peace talks.

The secretary said the problem was "how you provide on the one hand an umbrella so King Hussein isn't isolated, and on the other hand how you provide for Palestinian representation at direct talks."

He also said that the United States and Jordan differ on how to broaden peace talks, since Jordan has outlined a series of initial steps that the United States does not favour.

He said the proposals made by Jordan would not lead to the American goal of direct Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masi, in an interview with the Washington Post this week, proposed a four-sequence plan starting with a U.S. meeting with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Rifai, Qasem and Sharif Zaid return

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai returned to Amman Sunday evening at the end of a working visit to Britain during which he took part in talks with His Majesty King Hussein held with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other British government leaders. He was met at the airport by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahhab Al Majali and several cabinet members. Mr. Qasem also returned to Amman Sunday evening from New York after taking part in official talks between King Hussein and American administration officials in Washington late last month. Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker returned to Amman Sunday evening after taking part in King Hussein's talks in Washington and London. He was greeted by Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, his aides and the Armed Forces inspector general.

Thatcher 'planning' visit to Egypt, Jordan

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is considering a trip to Egypt and Jordan in September to support Jordan's Middle East peace initiative, the Sunday Times newspaper reported.

The report comes after a hectic four days during which Mrs. Thatcher met three of the main participants in the Arab-Israeli peace process — King Hussein, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

A spokesman for Mrs. Thatcher declined to comment on the report.

King Hussein is seeking Western support for his proposal for a U.S. meeting with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation prior to broader talks on a Middle East settlement.

A trip to the Middle East by Mrs. Thatcher would be a significant gesture of support for Jordan, likely to encourage more Arab countries to endorse the peace process, said the Sunday Times.

The newspaper said there were no plans for Mrs. Thatcher's Middle East trip to take in Israel.

If Mrs. Thatcher's trip went ahead, the paper commented, it would be seen "as a significant gesture of support for Egypt and Jordan, both in the forefront of efforts to bring Israel and the Palestinians together."

On Friday, Mrs. Thatcher told reporters that the next step in the Arab-Israeli conflict was to select Palestinians to be part of a joint delegation with Jordan for talks with Israel. But she said she opposed Jordan's call for an international conference on the Middle East.

In a meeting Tuesday with Mr. Shamir, Israel's deputy prime minister, Mrs. Thatcher was reported to have disagreed sharply with his refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

European Community (EC) foreign ministers will decide later this month whether they should meet a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for talks on Middle East peace, diplomats quoted by Reuters said.

Splits have weakened Palestinians, Pravda says

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda said Sunday the Palestinians have been weakened by factional splits and abandoned by many Arab governments.

The assessment was given in an analysis of the Middle East following violent clashes in Beirut refugee camps between Palestinian defenders of the camps and attacking Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen.

"Concerned with their own domestic and local regional problems, many (Arab) governments have in effect turned their back on the Palestinians and other forces facing Israeli expansion," a Pravda commentator said.

"The situation has been exacerbated by the fact that the ulcers of schism and disagreement have blighted the Palestinian movement itself, whose leadership is now clearly weakened."

It was a rare reference in the Soviet media to the effects of a two-year split in the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) between supporters of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Syrian-backed opponents.

The Kremlin's key Middle East ally is Syria and, in public, it has largely contented itself with calls for the Palestinians to close ranks.

Iraq says Tehran, six other Iranian cities raided

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq said Sunday its warplanes dealt Tehran, the Iranian capital, six Iranian border towns and a military camp "destructive blows," as the war of the cities entered its third week between the two Gulf belligerents.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said in a radio statement that Tehran was struck at 4:09 a.m. (0009 GMT).

He also said that the towns of Zarneh, Ilam, Reza, Hamadan, Abadan and Qazvin, along with an army camp at Reza were "raided by 20 jet fighters" between 9:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) and 4 p.m. (1200 GMT).

He said that the raids were aimed at "shattering the base of aggression in Iran." Iraq, he threatened, will keep up such raids until the Tehran leaders accept total peace.

The raid on Tehran brought to 46 the number of air strikes reported by Iraq on the Iranian capital city since March 14, when the war of the cities broke out.

Regent phones Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to inquire about the general situation on the Iraq-Iran front and the recent developments of the war.

He conveyed to the president greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and expressed appreciation "of the Iraqi people's brave stand in the face of the Iranian challenge," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Prince Hassan briefed President Hussein on King Hussein's talks with President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, it said.

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Sudanese leader sets elections for April 26

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Sudan's military ruler Gen. Abdul Rahman Swaredhah was Sunday quoted as saying elections would be held next April 26 to restore democracy in Sudan.

"All arrangements for the elections have been made... the legislative assembly will write the constitution and form parliament," he told the English-language Saudi Gazette newspaper in an interview.

Gen. Swaredhah, who led the coup against President Jaafar Numeiri on April 6, arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday for talks with Saudi leaders and to perform the minor Muslim pilgrimage.

He met King Fahd in Mecca Saturday night and informed sources said they were expected to have more talks Sunday.

Gen. Swaredhah appealed for aid to help Sudan's economy,

which he said was "falling apart". The current crisis needs immediate attention from within and from our friends on the outside," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Saudi Arabia has been one of Sudan's biggest aid donors, and has now resumed assistance to it suspended before the coup pending economic reforms.

Gen. Swaredhah said Sudan wanted to improve relations with all its neighbours, and pledged to maintain its 1982 defence pact with Egypt. "No treaty will be revoked," he said.

"We are determined to have good relations with all our neighbours... restoring relations with Libya and improving ties with Ethiopia should not be seen as an adverse step in our relations with other countries," he said.

The Sudanese leader's assertion ran counter to statements made earlier this month by his prime minister, who had said that the new Khartoum government was going to abrogate treaties signed with Egypt by the deposed President Jaafar Numeiri.

He also said that he wanted to bring Mr. Numeiri to trial for alleged crimes against the people. "We have said that we are determined that anybody we find involved in mismanagement or corruption will be brought to trial," Gen. Swaredhah said. "So, Numeiri cannot be excluded."

Turkish Cypriots vote for president

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriots began voting Sunday in an election for president of their breakaway state in which favourite Rauf Denkash faces five challengers.

Greek Cypriot demonstrators, calling the poll an attempt to consolidate the partition of the Mediterranean island, Saturday night blockaded the crossing point between the two communities in protest.

Officials in the Turkish Cypriot sector reported a steady stream of voters turning out in bright sunshine Sunday.

Mr. Denkash, who in 1983 proclaimed the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is still recognised only by Turkey, is favoured to win against two main left-wing candidates and three minor contenders. He is standing as an independent.

Several hundred demonstrators Saturday began a two-day blockade of the Greek Cypriot checkpoint on the "Green Line" dividing Nicosia. Canadian U.N. peace-keeping soldiers, guarded the 200-metre buffer zone between the two communities.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 after an abortive coup backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Greek Cypriots say Sunday's voting in the north is aimed at consolidating the de facto partition.

U.N.-sponsored talks between Mr. Denkash and Spyros Kyprianou, president of the internationally-recognised Cyprus government, collapsed last January. The talks were aimed at establishing a bi-communal federal republic.

Mr. Denkash is opposed in Sunday's election by Alpey Durduran, assistant secretary-general of the Communal Liberation

Party (TKP) and Ozker Oguzur, leader of the Republican Turkish Party (CTP). There are also three other candidates from minor parties.

The island's economy and the personalities of the candidates have been the main issues in a bitterly fought election campaign.

Mr. Oguzur said in an interview that Mr. Denkash had turned the north into a "banana republic" plagued by 60 per cent inflation and with a per capita income one quarter that of Greek Cypriots in the prosperous south.

Mr. Durduran said Mr. Denkash has "made a mess of every aspect of the Cyprus problem and every domestic issue."

Mr. Denkash has denied his opponents as "opportunists". He said both had campaigned against the independence which he said had brought Turkish Cypriots peace and security to run their own affairs.

Greek Cypriot Socialist EDEK Party leader Vassos Lyssarides, well known as a fiery orator, told the flag-waving crowd near the "green line": "Here before history we declare we will never tolerate foreign occupation or the loss of our fatherland."

Asked if he was endangering his supporters by bringing them to the "green line," Mr. Lyssarides said: "If to fight for what is yours is dangerous, I welcome danger."

He said demonstrators may attempt to enter the U.N.-controlled buffer zone to deliver a petition but would not approach Turkish-Cypriot defence lines.

Half-way between Greek and Turkish Cypriot checkpoints, Canadian soldiers of the U.N. force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) straddling the road said they would not allow protesters to pass.

"Our job is to protect the buffer zone," one said.

6 former Sudanese officials released

CAIRO (AP) — Sudanese authorities on Sunday ordered the release from custody of five senior officials of the overthrown government of President Jaafar Numeiri, declaring them innocent of wrongdoing.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA), in a dispatch from the Sudanese capital Khartoum, said the five, who include three former ministers, were released because investigations had turned up no evidence against them.

Most ministers and other high-ranking officials were arrested when the Sudanese army, led by then-Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahman Swaredhah, overthrew Numeiri on April 6. Investigations into allegations of corruption and other possible wrongdoing have been under way since then.

According to the agency, those released were former Information Minister Ali Shomra, former Health Minister Abdul Salam Saleh, Eissa, Youssef Sulliman, former minister of state for energy, Ismail Al Haj Moussa, former head of the Institute for Strategic and Political Studies and the deputy director for organisation in Numeiri's dissolved Sudanese Socialist Union, Abdul Rahman Abbas.

"We have received no complaints against those released, and their names have not been involved in the cases we are presently investigating," MENA reported Sudanese Prosecutor Omar Abdul Atty as saying.

He added, however, that the men would not be allowed to leave Khartoum until all investigations are completed.

Sudanese officials have said they will put Numeiri on trial,

Lebanese resistance fighters emerge from shadows as Israelis leave

By Rima Salamneh
Associated Press

MAARAKE, Lebanon (AP) — The young children with crudely carved wooden rifles marched around the home of the parents of a slain resistance leader who fought the Israelis during their three-year occupation.

"We will protect them with our lives," they chanted outside the house where Mohammed Saad, founder of the National Resistance Front, lived before he was assassinated in a bomb explosion last March.

The youngsters, aged between 8 and 12, symbolise the fierce pride among the Shi'ite Muslims of South Lebanon that has been forged by three years of fighting the Israeli occupation.

The Israelis have pulled out their men from Lebanese soil, humbled to a large degree by the ragtag resistance movement.

Behind them, the Israelis have left a potent new force that they inadvertently helped create. For decades, the poorest and most downtrodden Muslim sect in the country, the million-strong Shi'ites now hold the balance of power in Lebanon.

Maarake, east of Tyre, was the centre of the commando movement. With a half-dozen other Shi'ite villages it formed the so-called "Arc of Resistance."

The town was hit hard by Israeli's so-called "iron fist" campaign to crush the resistance. It was attacked 48 times before the Israelis left the area on April 29, more than any other village.

For many, Mohammed Saad is the symbol of the Shi'ites' newfound sense of identity and influence.

Saad, 27, was killed with 11 other fighters, including his second-in-command, Khalil Ger-

adi, 26, when a radio-controlled bomb exploded in Maarake's mosque on March 4.

Shi'ite Amal militia in Tyre said they arrested the bomber, a 15-year-old Shi'ite boy named Ali Faraj.

"He has admitted he bombed the mosque," said Daoud Daoud, the Amal leader in Tyre. "He was given the bomb by the Israelis on the orders of Gen. Ori Orr (Israel's northern front commander)."

Recently, a reporter witnessed a mass rally in Maarake to commemorate the martyrs killed in the mosque bombing. When Daoud asked the 10,000-strong crowd what should be done with the boy, "Execute him, execute him," they yelled back.

So far Faraj has not been executed. He languishes in a cell in Amal headquarters in Tyre, his future uncertain. Ali Kureis, an Amal military leader in Tyre, said Faraj and other suspects "are awaiting a legal decision from the highest religious authorities under Islamic Law."

Faraj is luckier than other alleged collaborators. Police and militia say resistance groups like Amal have killed at least 60 since September 1982. Two were shot dead in nearby Sidon on June 6, the third anniversary of the invasion.

Police in Beirut said that at least 25 alleged collaborators who fled to the capital from the south have been killed by various militias.

Amal, the main Shi'ite militia, now controls much of the South. It wages a hit-and-run war against the South Lebanon Army, an Israeli-backed militia in a border buffer zone stretching from the Mediterranean to Mt. Hermon in the east.

Throughout the occupation, the

resistance was a secret organisation. But now it's coming out of the shadows, its fighters publicly hailed as heroes.

Resistance fighter Jamal Safieddine told a reporter that Saad, a staunch nationalist, gathered his friends a few days after the invasion, and told them that, far from seeking to crush Palestinian commandos, the Israelis were out to grab the Litani River and its waters.

"We should struggle, we should resist," Safieddine recalled Saad urging his friends. Two weeks later they formed the first two four-man cells.

Their first operations were little more than token pinpricks, switching road signs around to confuse the invaders. Two weeks later they were attacking Israeli troops with guns and bombs.

Eventually, they began using suicide car bombers to ram Israeli convoys or bases. The Israelis lost 654 men killed and 3,856 wounded in their Lebanon campaign, many of them in resistance attacks.

Saad's brother, Mahmoud, said: "We dug pits near our homes in which we would hide when the Israelis attacked or rounded up people. Those pits kept us alive."

The resistance movement was extensive, much of it based on a Shi'ite network built up by Imam Moussa Sadr, a religious leader revered even more by Lebanese Shi'ites than Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Moussa Sadr disappeared on a visit to Libya in 1978.

Oheila Safieddine, a Shi'ite woman in Tyre, said she was a courier for the underground. "I'm a religious woman so I always wear a scarf," she said. "But when I was on a mission, I took the scarf off so the Israelis wouldn't get suspicious of me as a Shi'ite."

Shultz rejects Soviet idea

(Continued from page 1)

Security Council members. But Mr. Shultz said Washington was opposed to an international conference under either arrangement, believing it would not produce what Jordan wanted.

Peres' warms U.S. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has warned the United States that preliminary peace talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation could block efforts to launch Middle East peace negotiations.

This was included in a letter sent by Mr. Peres in response to a message by Mr. Shultz reporting on his talks with King Hussein.

Reading the text of his reply to the cabinet Sunday, Mr. Peres said according to a communiqué that "preliminary negotiations between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian group would be liable to constitute an obstacle to direct talks."

In his reply to Mr. Shultz, Mr. Peres praised the U.S. administration for its "devotion" to efforts to get peace talks started, the communiqué said.

Defence Minister Yitzhak

Rabin told an airport news conference on his return from the United States his reasons for objecting to preliminary talks, even "at a low level."

"I believe that the purpose of Jordan and the PLO from this meeting would be to reach a situation in which the PLO will recognise Israel in exchange for U.S. readiness to recognise the right of Palestinian self-determination. The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) would consider this an immense gain because they interpret this as an indirect if not direct support for their demand for a Palestinian state," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin reiterated Israel's refusal to negotiate with members of the PLO and said that he believed the United States also was opposed to negotiation with "declared members of the PLO."

He said the United States and Israel were in agreement on opposing an international peace conference with the participation of the Soviet

SLA tightens pressure

(Continued from page 1)

Nineteen other Finns, seized as they returned in a bus from leave in Israel, are being held in a separate location. They include a major and two lieutenants.

Golskel said the SLA has moved the 19 from the village of Adaseth, six kilometres east of Qantara. U.N. sources reported they had been taken to Marjayoun, the SLA's main base. But Golskel could not confirm that.

The sources said the U.N. hostages are being held by around 50 SLA militiamen. U.N. troops, including Finns, have ringed Qantara, but have made no effort to move in on the SLA positions.

Golskel said contacts between U.N. officials and the SLA were underway at "different levels and different places," but he declined to call them negotiations or give any other details.

Amal has refused to release the 11 SLA men they captured after a raid on Qantara early Friday. There was some speculation that the SLA fighters had defected to join their co-religionists.

Mubarak, Yugoslav minister hold talks

CAIRO (AP) — Yugoslav Foreign Minister Rado Dizdarevic met Sunday with President Hosni Mubarak, the Middle East News Agency reported.

After the meeting, Mr. Dizdarevic described relations between Egypt and Yugoslavia as "excellent" and said the two share identical views on the Middle East and Non-Aligned Movement, the main issues he and Mr. Mubarak discussed.

Mr. Dizdarevic said they also talked over ways to continue and develop bilateral relations.

Mr. Dizdarevic arrived Saturday and held talks with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid on the situation in the Middle East and issues related to the next non-aligned foreign ministers' conference, tentatively set for Angola in September.

Egypt and Yugoslavia on Saturday called on Israel to fully withdraw from South Lebanon and stressed the necessity of halting bloody fighting among various factions in Lebanon, including the attack on Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

Earlier in the day, President Hosni Mubarak made a similar appeal saying that not a single Israeli should be left inside Lebanese borders. He was commenting on reports that hundreds of Israeli soldiers were still manning several posts in South Lebanon despite an announcement Thursday by Maj.-Gen. Ori Orr, commander of Israeli forces in Lebanon that the withdrawal was complete.

There were a few raised eyebrows when Falangist gunmen started pumping fire back. Gunfire in the streets is part of life in this war-torn city, like honking horns and the cries of fruit vendors.

But when the shooting fused into one long furious blaze of fire, with .50 caliber tracers zipping past the window, the diners moved away from the glass to tables nearer the door.

Then when gunmen burst into the restaurant through the door, firing round the corner, there was only one thing left to do — eat in the kitchen behind the cover of the big stainless steel refrigerators.

As meals got it wasn't too bad. The Cordite gave the French cuisine a piquancy the chef had never intended, but it was palatable.

The gunfire, with both sides looting off profligate amounts of ammunition, died down after a half-hour and the window tables filled up again. Everyone went back to finish their meals with Arabic coffee.

The evening was meant to be a Saturday night break from the war. But in Beirut there's no hiding place.

By day, Nasser Awada works as a watchman outside an apartment block in west Beirut. At night, he dons his combat fatigues, loads his AK-47 rifle and becomes a militiaman, just like many other young men in this city of gunmen to whom fighting has become a way of life.

He belongs to the Shi'ite Muslim Amal Movement who right now are fighting their onetime allies, the Palestinians. Nasser, 23, a Lebanese, belonged to Fateh, the mainstream Palestinian faction led by Yasser Arafat, until 1982.

So now he's out there every night blazing away at his old friends.

He doesn't find anything strange about that.

"I lost faith with Fateh when they let the Israelis drive them out in 1982," he explained. "So I joined Amal when it was starting up because they were fighting the Israelis, who are our real enemy."

"I don't like the fact that Amal is now fighting the Palestinians. But the Palestinians broke up into all kinds of factions and were no longer really a resistance. I have nothing against the Palestinians personally. It's just politics."

Doesn't he find it a strain to hold down two jobs? "No, not really. I've been doing it for so long. It's just like eating and sleeping. Fighting's part of my daily routine."

Beirut's Channel 7 Television station broadcasts Arabic language shows and U.S. soap operas every day, just like its sister station, Channel 11. But when it comes to newscasts they go their own way.

Channel 7 is in mainly Muslim west Beirut. Channel 11 is in the eastern sector of the city. A spokesman for Channel 7 explained straight-faced, "while we have common programming, we present different versions of events in our newscasts."

The two stations are both run by the Lebanese Television Co., in which the government has a 50 per cent stake. Channel 7 is controlled by the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia while Channel 11 is under Falangist control.

Channel 7 made the news itself the other night. Gunmen from a Muslim militia that rivals Amal fired four rocket-propelled grenades into the station during the 8.30 p.m. news bulletin.

As the grenades exploded around him, newscaster Afaf Al-Hajzi, mild surprise registering on his face, broke off reading Amal's version of events to announce: "We're going off the air for a few minutes."

Fifteen minutes later, he was back on air, picking up exactly where he left off before the news got a little too close for comfort.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111

MAIN CHANNEL
15:00 Koran
15:30 Cartoons
15:50 Religious Programme
16:10 Cartoons
16:30 Cartoons
16:50 Cooking Programme
17:10 Arabic Series
17:30 Religious Programme
17:50 Proverbs
18:10 News in Arabic
18:30 A Special Programme on the Army Day
21:50 Cartoons
21:55 Arabic Series
22:10 News in Arabic
22:30 Arabic Film
01:05 Religious Programme

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Programme: Anagram
18:30 Carnet de l'Europe
19:00 News in French
19:30 Sports Magazine
19:50 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Tales of the Unexpected
21:00 Canadian Film
21:15 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:30 Maelstrom

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& party on 9560 KHz, SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
07:45 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
08:15 Pop Session
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23:30 News Summary
23:45 Pop Session
24:00 News Summary

22:00 Evening Show Contd.
23:00 News Summary
23:45 Evening Show Contd.
24:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Copycat 07:45
08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 World News
08:45 Newsdesk 09:30 World News
09:45 Newsdesk 10:30 World News
10:45 Newsdesk 11:30 World News
11:45 Newsdesk 12:30 World News
12:45 Newsdesk 13:30 World News
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23:45 Newsdesk 24:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,
11925 and 15210 KHz

07:00 News 07:10 News 07:30 VOA
Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline
08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10
Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning News
Summary 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline
10:30 News 10:40 Newsline 10:50
Focus 19:30 Special English News &
Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline
20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News 21:10
Focus 21:30 Special English News &
Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline
22:30 Magazine Show 23:00 News 23:10
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Focus 97:30 Special English News &
Features 98:00

NEWS IN BRIEF

University honours board of trustees

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan Sunday held a ceremony to honour the university's board of trustees. Jordan University President Abdul Salam Al Majali made a speech on the occasion paying tribute to the efforts of the board members. Another speech was made by the board Chairman Ahmad Al Lawzi, who is also speaker of the Upper House of Parliament. Dr. Majali presented the board members with gifts towards the end of the ceremony.

Majali requests support for ZDC festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahhab Al Majali Saturday called on the ministers of interior, labour and social development, information, culture, tourism, antiquities and youth to extend every possible help to the festival Zarqa Development Corporation (ZDC) intends to hold in Zarqa on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's golden jubilee. The Armed Forces musical band will take part in the week long festival which will be held on Nov. 14.

Central Bank draws fifth lottery

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan Sunday drew its fifth lottery on the 13th issue of the government development bonds which mature in 1990. A bank spokesman said that a total of 102 prizes were announced by the special organising committee. These prizes totalled JD 7,500 in value and are all free of income tax. The Central Bank last month issued new bonds worth JD 8 million which are still open for sale to the public until June 15.

British ambassador visits JEA

AMMAN (Petra) — British Ambassador to Jordan Arthur John Coles Sunday called at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and discussed with JEA director general Mohammad Sa'id Arafah cooperation between Jordan and Britain in electric power generation and the prospect of employing British expertise to train local personnel. They also reviewed JEA projects being partly implemented with British loans or those being carried out with the help of British contractors.

IDB extends 46 loans to businesses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has agreed to grant 46 loans valued at a total of JD 43,500 for various projects. The funds will be used to finance factories producing confectionery, pastries, aluminium and building materials. Restaurants, blacksmiths and printing workshops are also to benefit from IDB loans.



RIFA'I, SHARIF ZAID RETURN: Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and Armed Forces Commander in Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker are seen with Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasbi and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahhab Al Majali upon their arrival at Amman Airport Sunday (Petra photo)

Woman begins labour in tawjihi examination; student fakes illness, tries to cheat in hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 19-year-old woman from Salt gave birth to a child on the first day of the tawjihi examinations she was taking on Thursday. A report in the local press said that the woman was rushed to hospital and left the following day after delivery to resume exams at the Salt Secondary School. According to the report, the woman and child are doing well and are in good health.

The authorities in charge of the examinations took him to hospital, where a Ministry of Education teacher was left to supervise him once he was able to resume writing. The teacher was surprised to see his relatives coming to his hospital room carrying text books.

Petra, said that the Ministry of Education has been dispatching teams to tour various examination halls in order to ensure that students sitting for the tawjihi exams the end of the compulsory-stage exam are doing well and that everything is going to schedule.

The teacher threatened to report the matter unless the relatives left but he was beaten by the visitors as was a doctor who arrived unexpectedly on the scene. According to the paper's report, Minister of Education Abdul Wahhab Al Majali was alerted and the assailants and the student have been detained for questioning. The Jordanian News Agency,

Petra said that the teams' reports indicated that the students were not complaining about the examinations and that they were generally in high spirits. The examinations, which started on Thursday, are expected to end on June 16, after which ministry teachers will embark on the process of marking the papers.

Jordan marks Army Day, Great Arab Revolt today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today celebrates Renaissance Day in commemoration of the Great Arab Revolt against Ottoman rule led by Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali of Mecca, His Majesty King Hussein's great grandfather.

Geographic Centre which offers training in the making of maps, aerial photography and the preparation of atlases of Jordan and the Arab World.

Commemorative stamps

On the occasion of Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, the Ministry of Communications issued a commemorative postal stamp which it said will be put into circulation on Monday June 10. The stamp is in denominations of 25, 40, 60 and 100 fils.

The Ministry of Education has organised a drawing competition for school children. The drawings depict the Great Arab Revolt, the Armed Forces and their role. A ceremony to honour the winning students was held Sunday and Brigadier Adnan Daghestani, director of the army's moral guidance department, distributed awards and spoke in appreciation of the Ministry of Education.

The Great Arab Revolt broke out on Sha'ban 9, 1334 (June 10, 1916) and aimed to bring about the unity of Arabs everywhere. It also marked the emergence of the Arabs as an independent entity, recognised by the world, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Jordan also Monday celebrates Army Day. One of the achievements of the Great Arab Revolt was the formation of the Arab army which marched under Sharif Hussein and his sons to liberate the Arab Nation.

Under King Hussein, the Armed Forces have been greatly expanded and strengthened and provided with modern arms and

up to date equipment, enabling it to take part in the 1967 and other wars against Israel. Petra said in a release issued on the eve of the occasion. Apart from defending the nation, the Armed Forces have contributed to the development of health, education and other fields. In Amman, Zarqa, Karak, Aqaba and Irbid there are military hospitals which cater for the health needs of the Jordanian military and their families and which so far offered medical service to nearly 1.5 million people. The Armed Forces runs schools to offer education to the children of military personnel and in cooperation with the public sector, it established the Jordan National

Economy fared well last year despite regional recession, Tabba'a says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's overall national output last year was worth JD 2,008 million, registering an increase of 8.6 per cent over the previous year's figures, and the country realised an overall local production worth JD 1,604 million, an increase of 7.9 per cent over 1983, according to Mr. Hamdi Al Tabba'a, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

He said in an interview with the local press that there has been also a rise of 3.9 per cent in the cost of living index in Jordan during last year, the lowest figure registered in the country since 1968. This leaves only a four per cent increase in the total economic activity in Jordan over 1983, he said.

Mr. Tabba'a quoted Central Bank of Jordan's figures as estimating a total of JD 475 million to have been transferred to the country by expatriates employed in Arab countries during 1984. He said that this has registered an increase of 18 per cent over the 1983 figures.

Jordan's estimated national exports during 1984 were worth JD 261 million, compared with JD 160.09 million in 1983, and imports dropped from JD 1,103 million in 1983 to JD 1,071 million in 1984, thus creating a favourable drop in the balance of trade deficit, Mr. Tabba'a said.

In industry, he said, Jordan last year made a 15 per cent total increase in production over 1983, but he added that agricultural production dropped by 9.2 per cent due mainly to unfavourable climatic conditions.

The banking sector was more active in 1984 than any other sectors in Jordan, but operations at the Amman Financial Market dropped last year by 58 per cent, according to Mr. Tabba'a.

He said Jordan, along with all countries in the Middle East region, was adversely affected by the current world economic recession.

Greco-Roman ruins retain mysteries of the Decapolis cities

This is the first in a series of articles on the Greco-Roman Decapolis cities which were built in north Jordan and south Syria. The first and second articles discuss the historical importance and possible regional roles of the 'ten' cities and later articles will review the Decapolis cities in Jordan.

Text and Photos by

Rami G. Khouri

AMMAN — Visitors to Jordan today are always impressed by the grandeur of the ancient ruins of Jerash, the Greco-Roman city that flourished during Roman control of this area between the 1st Century BC and the 4th Century AD.

But Jerash was neither alone, nor unique. Its extensive, well-preserved ruins, perhaps the most complete of any of the many Roman cities in the East, may give the false impression today that this was a singularly magnificent city in the midst of an otherwise mundane region. In fact, Jerash was one of dozens of similar provincial Roman cities throughout Syria and Arabia. For nearly 150 years, during the first centuries BC and AD, it was part of an association of ten Greco-Roman cities known as the Decapolis, located throughout the area of north Jordan and south Syria.

Ancient literary sources and maps clearly identify Jerash and other nearby Greco-Roman cities as part of the Decapolis, or Greek for "ten cities". Nineteenth and early 20th century scholars viewed the Decapolis as a "confederation" or "league" of free Roman city-states, but this view has lost favour in recent years. The latest scholarship sees the Decapolis more as a region in north Jordan and south Syria where at least ten loosely associated provincial Roman cities and their territories flourished during the early centuries of Roman rule in the Middle East.

The Decapolis enigma

For all the information that has

been pulled from the ground, gleaned from ancient literary sources and maps, or deciphered from coins and inscription fragments, the Decapolis remains an enigma: its precise nature, role, composition and extent are still perplexing riddles that tax the minds of scholars interested in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire.

Even the very word Decapolis, or ten cities, may be a cruel teaser, for several Roman writers have left us slightly conflicting evidence of how many, and which, cities formed the Decapolis. The Decapolis was thought to have been formed when the Roman General Pompey marched south and captured Damascus in 64/63 BC. Most of the Decapolis cities were originally established by the Macedonian settler-soldiers of the Ptolemaic and Seleucid Kingdoms in the 3rd Century BC, following the conquest of the Middle East by Alexander the Great.

By the middle of the 1st Century BC, the Seleucid Kingdom in Syria had started to disintegrate. Pompey's annexation of Syria, and the creation of the Roman Province of Syria, ended the anarchy that was precipitated by the collapse of the Seleucid Kingdom. Pompey freed several Decapolis cities from the control of the Hasmonaeans in Jerusalem, and coin evidence indicates most of the cities showed their gratitude by adopting a new calendar that started with the year of their liberation in 64/63 BC.

The Decapolis seems to have existed as a formal unit for 170 years, until the Roman Emperor Trajan annexed Petra and the Nabataean Arab Kingdom in south Jordan and north Arabia in 106 AD. The new Roman Province of Arabia (*provincia ara-*

bia), with its capital at Bostra, was created south of the Province of Syria, and the cities of the Decapolis were divided among the two provinces.

What was it?

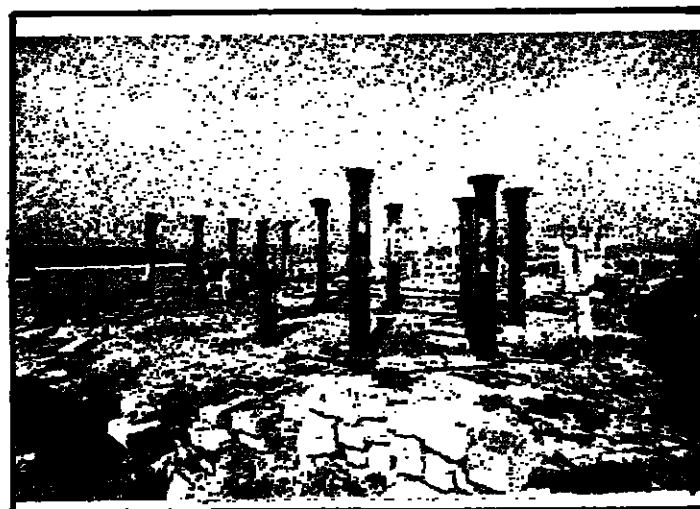
None of the historical references to the Decapolis from the 1st Century AD onwards explains conclusively what the Decapolis was. It may well have been a formal league or confederation of politically allied Roman city-states, sharing common military, commercial and cultural interests, similar to other leagues of cities throughout the Roman provinces.

It may only have been a convenient geographical designation for that region that included the ten cities. The Decapolis may have been a commercial unit, or simply a Roman Empire administrative subdivision. It could also have had security considerations, acting as a buffer zone between the Roman province of Syria to the north and the Nabataean Arab kingdom and adjacent desert regions to the south.

Or, it could have been all or several of these things at different times between the 1st century BC and the 2nd Century AD, as the territory and political configuration of the Decapolis probably expanded, contracted and changed over time. The textual evidence provides many clues, but no conclusive proof.

The Decapolis is first mentioned in the biblical references in the books of Matthew and Mark (which say Jesus passed through "the region of the Decapolis") and crowds of people followed Jesus "from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judaea and from the other side of the Jordan". In both cases, the Decapolis seems to have a purely geographical meaning.

Josephus mentioned the Decapolis four times in his 1st Century AD works, referring to "the in-



The Roman temple at Gadara (Umm Qais) which was transformed into an octagonal Byzantine church

habitants of the Decapolis", the "chief men of the Syrian Decapolis" and "the towns of the Syrian Decapolis". He also says Scythopolis was the biggest of the Decapolis cities.

A recently interpreted inscription found in western Turkey a century ago recounts the career of a Roman equestrian officer. His service in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire included a posting in "the Decapolis of Syria", conclusively dated from the end of the 1st Century AD. This inscription suggests the Decapolis was an administrative unit within the Province of Syria.

The Roman writer Pliny, in his "Natural History" completed in 77 AD, says: "Adjoining Judea on the side of Syria is the region of the Decapolis, so called from the number of its towns, though not all writers keep to the same list..." He names the cities of the Decapolis as Damascus, Philadelphia, Raphana, Scythopolis, Gadara, Hippos, Dion, Pella, Galasa, and Canatha. ("Galasa" is a misspelling for Gerasa, or Jerash.) In the 2nd Century AD, the Egyptian-Roman geographer Ptolemy lists 18 cities of Coele-Syria and the Decapolis in his "Geography". Along with the ten Decapolis cities in Ptolemy's list, Ptolemy includes Abila, Capitolias, Helipolis, Saana, Ina, Samoulis, Adra, and Abila Lysanios. Ptolemy seems to have combined two lists of cities of the Decapolis and of Coele-Syria.

Ten cities

Recent scholarship and excavation have identified the ten cities of the Decapolis as: Philadelphia (modern Amman), Gerasa (Jerash), Pella (Tabaqat Fah), Scythopolis (Beisan, or Bethshean), Gadara (Umm Qais), Damascus, Hippos (Jal'at Al Husn, in the Golan Heights), Canatha (Kana'at, in southern Syria), Dium, and Raphana.

The sites of ancient Dium and Raphana have not been conclusively identified. The four leading candidates for Dium are: Tell Husn and Edun, both near Irbid; Kufr Abil, near Pella; and Tell al Asba'ari, near the Syrian border town of Dera'a. Scythopolis was the only Decapolis city west of the

Jordan River.

Raphana may be the same city as Capitolias (modern Beit Ras, just north of Irbid), which may have been "refounded" and renamed Capitolias in 97/98 AD.

After the Decapolis cities were incorporated into the Roman provinces of Syria and Arabia in 106 AD, the term Decapolis continued in use for some time. Several 4th Century AD Byzantine writers, such as Eusebius, Epiphanius and Stephanus of Byzantium, seem to use the term Decapolis purely as a geographical designation for the area of north Jordan and south Syria.

Alia Hotel stages soft opening, prepares for full operations by mid-July

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has staged a "soft opening" of the latest additions to its proud possessions; an international standard hotel which is currently offering its own facilities to transit passengers using the Queen Alia International Airport.

The Alia Hotel, which has a capacity of 308 rooms—including suites—opened its doors to Alia transit passengers in late May and now averages about 100 guests, said Adnan Habboub, an ILO expert under assignment to Alia Hospitality Services which is operating the Jordanian national carrier's first-ever hotel.

All facilities of the hotel are operational except the main restaurant and three floors of guest rooms. Mr. Habboub told the Jordan Times. "We have hired about 50 per cent of the staff and have also been able to overcome a number of teething problems," he added.

He attributed the "relatively easy process of overcoming the problems" to the physical presence of the main contractors, Sodetec of France, at the hotel site.

The JD 9 million hotel, financed by the French government agency

Coface, is expected to be fully operational by mid-July when it will formally open its doors to the public, the ILO expert said.

Direct information line

"However, we are also catering to a few 'walk-in' customers in recent days," he said adding that all communication facilities, including telex and telephones, have been commissioned. One of the highlights of the hotel's features is a direct telephone line in every guest room to the Alia information desk at the Queen Alia International Airport, just under two kilometres from the hotel.

Through the construction and commissioning of the project was completed in early January, considerations of seasonal demand had apparently delayed the formal opening of the hotel, one of the cherished goals of Alia which used to make use of various private-owned hotels in Amman to meet its demands of hotel facilities to its transit passengers. In addition, Alia has also catered to transit passengers of other airlines whose ground operations are handled by the Jordanian national carrier.

Mr. Habboub had told the Jordan Times in an earlier interview that the requirements of Alia, which provides about 60,000 "bed-nights" to its transit pas-

sengers every year, will cover most of the operational costs of the hotel, which, in full capacity, will employ about 250 people. According to Mr. Habboub, who helped establish the Amman Hotel Training College in Amman, most of the hotel's staff will be Jordanian.

Facilities

The Alia Hotel offers almost every facility offered by a similar establishment of international standards and is built in conformity with all facilities of a five-star hotel. However, according to Jordanian criteria of determining the grades of hotels, the Alia Hotel has been given a four-star rating.

Facilities offered at the Alia Hotel include central air-conditioning with individual thermostats in the rooms, colour television, four-channel music, automatic wake-up system, two channel in-house movies day and night and 24-hour room service.

In addition, the hotel houses a 175-seat coffee-shop which is functioning since the "soft opening", the main 375-seat restaurant which is expected to be opened soon, swimming pool, poolside bar, fitness centre and sports and recreation facilities. The hotel serves Far Eastern, Middle Eastern and European food.



The recently-excavated north theatre at Jerash

CONGRATULATIONS

FROM

ALWAHA DEPT. STORES

TO

Mrs. LAYLA SAID ZABANEH

The winner of the ALFA ROMEO, the prize of May 1985 raffle.

ALWAHA DEPT. STORES
7TH Circle - Tel. 814129 - Amman, Jordan

Photo: Mrs. L.S. Zabaneh is receiving her car on June 8th, 1985 at AlwaHa Stores main entrance.

Jordan Times

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Guest Column

Who are Shamir, Rabin trying to deceive?

By Tareq Masarweh

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Yitzhak Shamir made a statement during his visit to London recently rejecting the idea of involving the PLO in any peace-making process because he said the PLO calls for the destruction of Israel.

In Washington, his colleague, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted as saying almost at the same time that his government refuses the idea of an international conference to discuss the Middle East question, because, he said, the Soviet Union was not concerned with peace in the region. Shamir, who represents the Likud bloc in the present coalition, and Rabin, who represents Labour, have been try-

ing to play roles abroad resembling those played within Israel, but seem to be unaware of the fact that their game has been exposed to the world, which cannot be taken in any longer by Israel's deception.

Shamir's rejection of the PLO role is in reality a rejection of the existence of the Palestine problem and the problem of the Palestinian people. But since he cannot reiterate Golda Meir's 1967 claims that the Palestinians do not exist, he tends to describe the PLO as a terrorist organisation intent on destroying Israel, and he refers to the Palestinians as terrorists. His statement, however, cannot deceive his audience in Britain, whose people realise and

see that the Palestinians are being destroyed after being turned out of their own homeland by Israel. Britons realise that Shamir himself is a terrorist and that he has a fat record of terrorist activities during the British mandate in Palestine. Rabin's rejection of the projected international conference, claiming that Moscow is not concerned with peace in the region is a mere attempt to follow Washington's course of campaign against the Soviet Union. Rabin realises the fact that his American audience knows quite well that the idea of an international conference is aimed at involving the United Nations Security Council's permanent members in the

peace-making process, and these members are not only the Soviet Union, and that the aim of such a conference is the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which the Soviet Union along with world nations are concerned to have implemented.

When an Arab League delegation led by King Hussein visited Moscow to explain the Fez Arab Summit resolutions, they were told by the Kremlin that these resolutions on the Middle East question form a bare minimum of Arab demands, and that the Arab countries are advised not to offer further concessions.

When King Hussein went to Washington, he submitted the

same Fez resolutions which form the minimum acceptable to the Arabs. But the Washington visit was a step towards breaking the deadlock and taking the Fez resolutions from the stage of mere theory to put them into practice. As a first step, the King exerted efforts towards a U.S. recognition of the PLO as a full partner on equal footing with Jordan in a future dialogue.

Back in the Middle East, we find Israel's prime minister Shimon Peres saying that his government accepts the idea of negotiating with the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, who he described as intelligent people and have their own representatives.

But Peres also realises that these people, who had recently met U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, had handed him a written memorandum declaring that the PLO remains their sole representative.

Going over to the Arab side, we find that they live the continuing no-war, no-peace situation. If the Arab League countries want to put their Fez resolutions into practice and break the deadlock, they should hold an Arab summit where they can adopt a unified stand. They ought to do so now because it is the Palestinians that continue to pay the price of the no-war, no-peace situation in the region.

Reaffirming basic roles

THE COMMITTEE now preparing the next Jordanian five-year plan, contrary to earlier similar efforts, has the advantage of nearly 15 years of sustained Jordanian development behind it upon which it can draw. The last two five-year plans were formulated and implemented in a context of rapid growth throughout Jordan and the wider Arab region, when monetary resources were substantial and basic priorities rather logical. Now that the decade of infrastructural growth is almost completed, our planners have a new set of challenges and priorities to face.

In our part of the world, the planning process has always focussed heavily on building projects, technical facilities and physical edifices — homes, ports, roads, schools, hospitals, community centres, airports, water networks, power plants and the like. In the coming decade, the focus must shift slightly from projects to processes, from physically building nations to sustaining them economically, socially and politically.

In this context, our planners have to address more clearly the processes by which individuals relate to the forces and mechanisms of statehood and nationhood. In Jordan, this requires a deep assessment of the role of the private sector vis-a-vis the public sector. For the past decade, the public sector has gradually encroached upon territory that had always been seen as the responsibility of our private entrepreneurs. The result has been a blurring of the traditional lines of responsibility between private capital and public institutions. Given the two-year-old recession that has defined Arab economies, this has also translated into more caution by private investors in investing their money and filling in the economy.

The recent constraints on the government's budget require that the private sector in Jordan reactivate its investment drive, particularly in the field of industry, services and social development. For this to happen, there must be a clear understanding, between the public and private sectors, on the roles and responsibilities of each. Jordan has proved in the past decade that it has both the human and capital resources in the private sector to shoulder developmental responsibilities that the government has traditionally handled. In such fields as education and housing, to mention only two of the more obvious. Such a trend is good for Jordan, and should be reaffirmed.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Partial support helps none

U.S. SECRETARY of State George Shultz and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have reportedly agreed during a meeting in London to support the Jordanian-Palestinian accord of Feb. 11. But both said they do not support the idea of holding an international conference on the Middle East with the purpose of excluding the Soviet Union from such parity. But the two ideas are contradictory because though the two countries support the Amman agreement, they have failed to prove this by opposing the projected international conference which Jordan and the PLO call for in the Amman agreement.

The exclusion of the Soviet Union from such a conference will deny any negotiations their international character, something unacceptable to Jordan and the PLO, which call for an international umbrella to supervise the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Excluding the Soviet Union means giving no guarantees for such an agreement to last, and the Arab cannot accept a Western hegemony on their affairs by excluding the Soviet Union, whose presence can hold the balance in the equation.

Al Dustour: Reconciliation still distant

THE PREVAILING situation in Lebanon indicates that reconciliation among the warring factions is still out of reach and that many obstacles have been placed in the path of peace, making it a far possibility in the foreseeable future.

For one thing, the civil war is still going on despite all previous agreements in Switzerland to bring about a settlement that can guarantee the rights of all groups in the country. There are also the problems of the South Lebanese Army, the armed militias and the attacks on the refugee camps which have caused the loss of life of many innocent people.

The series of events in Beirut and other towns and cities are no doubt influenced by foreign powers which have different interests in Lebanon. But it seems that these powers agree on one thing at least, and that is to continue destroying Lebanon and exterminate its people. These powers support different groups which continue to fight one another in a losing war that can achieve nothing but ruin and loss for the whole of Lebanon.

It seems that the more influence and interference these foreign powers have in Lebanon the more things get complicated for the Lebanese and peace becomes impossible to attain.

Sawt Al Shaab: Some enjoy bloodshed

ANY ARAB country refraining from taking part in the current Arab League Council meetings in Tunis should be considered as one that supports the present aggression on the Palestinian refugee camps of Beirut. Any country trying to present the on-going attacks on the camps as an internal Lebanese affair is trying to deceive the world public opinion and finding a pretext to perpetuate the tragedy of the Palestinian people.

Such countries are clearly trying to justify the crimes of the aggressors and supporting the criminals against the victims. The Palestinian camps have been exposed to bloodbaths, first carried out by the Israelis and the Falangists and now by the Shi'ites, while the government of Lebanon continues to prove to be impotent and unable to deal with the situation and to put an end to massacres.

The Arab governments have failed so far to take any action to protect the refugees and it is now up to the Arab League to draw up a pan-Arab action that can expose the aggressors and put an end to the fighting. The Arab League Council now meeting in Tunis should take a step further and try to mobilise Arab countries' efforts in the face of dangers from Israel and Iran that continue to threaten the Arab nation's existence.

NATO ministers put unity before support of 'Star Wars'

By Paul Taylor

ESTORIL — The NATO allies, for the sake of unity with France, have backed off from public support of President Reagan's "Star Wars" programme, diplomats said.

The outcome of a two-day NATO foreign ministers' meeting here was a setback for the United States, which had sought an endorsement of its space weapons research effort, but not necessarily a blow to the Geneva arms talks, they said.

The final communiqué declared strong support for U.S. efforts in all three areas of the negotiations — strategic and medium-range missiles and arms in space — but contained no reference to Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said it was no secret that the allies held differing views on the American programme and that some wanted no part of it.

Friday's communiqué contrasted sharply with the enthusiastic backing which NATO defence ministers, meeting with

France, gave to SDI in Luxembourg last March.

A West European diplomat said the Luxembourg statement, which described the U.S. research as "in NATO's security interest," appeared in hindsight to have been the high-water mark of allied support for the programme.

France has in recent months proposed a civilian programme known as "Eureka", grouping European Community members, for research into the same areas of high technology as SDI.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas made clear here that Paris would not subscribe to any form of words blessing the American project, which President Francois Mitterrand has condemned as "over-ambitious."

A senior West German official said the main aim in Estoril was to avoid isolating France, while supporting Washington's stance in the Geneva talks with Moscow.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said: "This is not a cosmetic but a realistic communiqué."

In fact, France was far from isolated. Denmark, Norway and Greece all resisted any public

endorsement of "Star Wars".

NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington said there had never been any likelihood of a dissenting French footnote to the communiqué. "We did not have a row on SDI," he declared.

He said the issue was likely to be debated in NATO for years and the 16 ministers had begun a real discussion here about the long-term implications of a possible space-based defence against nuclear missiles for alliance security. Secretary of State George Shultz agreed that the U.S. would have liked a public endorsement of SDI but said Moscow would be wrong to think NATO was divided in its approach to Geneva.

He said Washington had not sought to extract support from the allies for "Star Wars" as a concession. But he had found very broad support for the necessity of U.S. research given Soviet efforts in the same field.

Senior NATO diplomats said Mr. Shultz had acted gracefully and sensibly in not pressing for a specific statement on SDI.

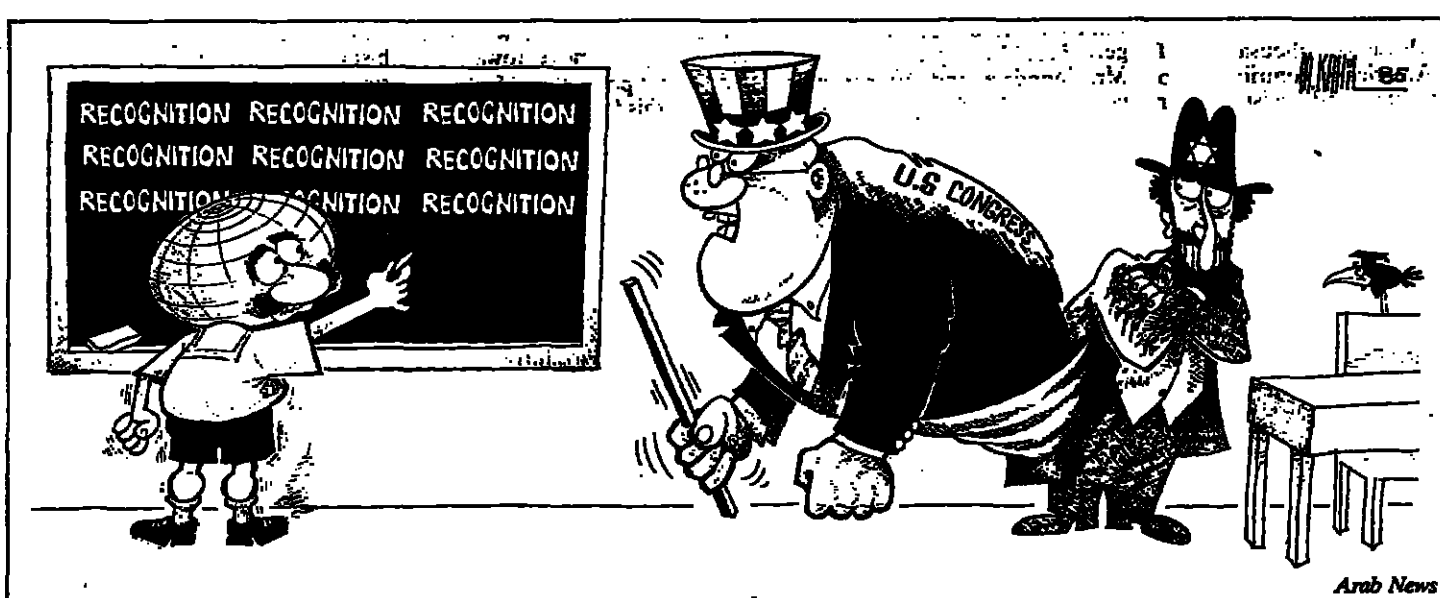
They also praised his request for allied guidance on whether the U.S. should continue to observe



the SALT-2 arms limitation treaty, which President Reagan is due to decide this weekend. Diplomats said the SALT-2 discussion and full briefings on the Geneva talks conveyed the im-

pression to Western public opinion that the Reagan administration was serious about consultation and arms control. This would be reinforced if Mr. Reagan decided, against the ad-

vice of hawks in the U.S. Defence Department, not to abandon SALT-2 and to be willing to trade away space weapons for deep cuts in offensive missiles in Geneva, they said.



Habre celebrates three years in power

By Claude Regis

N'DJAMENA — Chadian President Hissene Habre Friday celebrated the third anniversary of his takeover, amid clear signs that he has considerably strengthened his hold on this vast and impoverished Central African nation.

There has been little cause for celebration and Friday's ceremonies could mark just one among many violent episodes in the history of a country torn by civil war for the past two decades.

Northern Chad is occupied by Libyan troops, effectively splitting the country in two, guerrilla activity is disrupting life in the more prosperous and fertile south, while the worst drought recorded this century has added to the suffering brought by war.

Yet, Chadians and Western diplomats view Mr. Habre's record

over the last three years as positive.

This war-scarred capital city is being rebuilt, many houses riddled with bullet holes are being demolished to make way for new dwellings, the administration is more efficient than it was and corruption is being ruthlessly dealt with.

Mr. Habre, a 44-year-old former guerrilla leader turned president, has also forged a sense of national unity and purpose hitherto lacking among his 4.5 million countrymen, Chadians said.

He has tried hard and met with some success in overcoming traditional rivalries between northern Muslim Arabs and southern Christian or animist blacks, the root cause of Chad's woes since it became independent from France 25 years ago.

According to informed sources, Mr. Habre was very surprised by

the rapturous welcome he received from the population during his recent tours of southern provinces, reputedly hostile to northerners.

Guerrillas roaming the south are rallying behind Mr. Habre in increasing numbers and Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou, himself a prominent southerner, predicted there would soon be no rebels left in that part of the country.

Mr. Lassou told Reuters in an interview that some 4,000 guerrillas had joined government forces in the past few months, the result of patient efforts by cabinet ministers touring the southern provinces offering jobs in the national army.

The already loose and fragile coalition known as the Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT) which ruled Chad from November 1979 until it was

driven out of N'Djamena by Mr. Habre's guerrilla forces on June 7, 1982, is falling apart.

It has splintered into countless rival factions and is becoming less relevant each day, according to most diplomats here who agree with Mr. Lassou that the real confrontation is the one pitting Chad against Libya.

The opposition's chief argument against Mr. Habre's legitimacy was that he clung to power only under the umbrella provided by French forces which has considerably boosted Mr. Habre's domestic and international position, one Western diplomat said.

The Chadian government has repeated it is ready to resume peace talks which broke down in the Congolese capital of Brazzaville last October if opposition groups modify their stand on key issues.

Chadians remained ill the more likely his faction followers would drift away to seek fresh political patronage.

Even before Mr. Tanaka fell ill, his 122-member faction, the largest in the LDP, was split by the creation of a so-called Political Study Group by Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Mr. Takeshita has his eye on the premiership which Yasuhiro Nakasone must relinquish in November 1986. He had hoped that by creating a rival power base he would be able to push Mr. Tanaka into backing him for party and national leadership.

Mr. Takeshita, 61, is one of the "younger" generation of Japanese leaders jockeying for the top job.

Tanaka's office closure signifies end of prowess

By Tim Pearce

TOKYO — Prospects of Japan's political kingmaker, former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, making a comeback from a stroke look slimmer than ever after an announcement that his private office is to be closed.

He used the office in Tokyo to control the workings of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for more than a decade until he was partially paralysed in February.

The announcement Thursday by Mr. Tanaka's son-in-law and lawyer, sent shock waves through the political establishment and signalled that the man dubbed Japan's "shadow Shogun" could

be finally bowing out.

LDP sources said the closure of the nerve centre of all Mr. Tanaka's political activities showed his family thought it increasingly unlikely that he would again play an active part in politics.

Political analysts said the veil of secrecy cast over Mr. Tanaka's condition by his family and aides since his stroke meant he was in worse shape than hospital bulletins suggested. At one stage it was not even clear whether he was at home or in hospital.

Mr. Tanaka, a construction company magnate who was prime minister for two years until he resigned in disgrace in 1974, has been the driving force behind every premier since.

The flurry of excitement that has greeted each indication he was seriously ill showed how hard it was for politicians to accept his withdrawal.

Mr. Tanaka's Secretary Shigezo Hayasaka told a press conference he had not been warned of the office closure. "I am stunned by the sudden announcement," he told reporters.

Lawyers for Mr. Tanaka, who resigned as prime minister amid a flurry of charges of corruption in high places, are still preparing an appeal against a four-year jail sentence for taking bribes from the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

His lawyer said he would retain a political office at his home but analysts said the longer Mr. Tan-

Storm could affect Bangladesh politics

By David Briscoe

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Martial-law President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has gained new public prominence with a quick and very personal response to the hurricane that killed more than 10,000 people in his 14-year-old nation. But the effect of the storm on politics in Bangladesh is uncertain.

Some observers believe Gen. Ershad's increasing self-confidence, bolstered by millions of dollars in foreign storm aid, might lead him to allow an election to restore parliament before the end of the year. This would return some civilian influence to government and perhaps increase foreign confidence and aid.

Few, however, expect major steps toward full democracy or a long-term boost to Gen. Ershad's power, despite the events surrounding the storm. Opposition politicians say relief efforts will only further show the nation's impoverished condition, its dependence on foreign aid and what they claim is popular dissatisfaction with military influence in the nation of 100 million people.

Public attention focused on Gen. Ershad throughout the storm relief effort as he handed out saris, directed the burial of bodies and led Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius R. Jayewardene to Urr Char Island, the area worst hit by the storm. Gen. Ershad himself spent a night on the island with grieving survivors. His appeals for international relief have brought millions of dollars in pledges.

The president's picture appeared in Dhaka newspapers first with the dead, then the survivors, and finally trudging through the mud of Urr Char for television cameras as many of the survivors looked on.

"General Ershad is weeping, so people are impressed outside the affected area," former Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, a member of the opposition, said in an interview. "But it will not help him because rehabilitation (of many of the losses from the storm) is not possible."

Ataur Rahman Khan, another former prime minister and a leader of Gen. Ershad's ruling People's Party, said, "enlightened self-interest has pulled the military together and if they think an election will help them, they might allow it to be called in November."

Gen. Ershad's critics see the disaster elections as an effort to build a political base in the countryside and weaken parliament if it is ever returned.

But Mr. Kahn, an elder statesman who speaks freely about Bangladesh politics, said many of the storm victims were being neglected and that any improvement in Gen. Ershad's image would only be temporary.

In an interview at his Dhaka residence, Mr. Kahn said Gen. Ershad is unlikely to make any changes that will affect the power and privilege of the military, which the president himself acknowledges is an important constituency.

"There can be no real free election, no home for democracy," he said.

Mr. Kahn was removed as prime minister in March when Gen. Ershad dissolved his civilian cabinet under opposition pressure.

Gen. Ershad's rise to power began after the 1981 assassination by soldiers of President Ziaur Rahman, called Zia. As a leading general in the 100,000-strong military, Gen. Ershad pushed to give the military a prominent role in government.

He grabbed power 10 months after President Zia's death, dissolved parliament, suspended the constitution, arrested several opposition leaders and has since ruled by martial law.

After a 1983 visit to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Gen. Ershad promised parliamentary elections and a return to democracy, four times trying to schedule elections.

But each time, his opponents in more than 20 political groups refused to participate, demanding he first lift martial law and give up power to a caretaker government.

In March, Gen. Ershad banned political activity and closed the nation's six universities. He also placed under house arrest two top opposition leaders, President Zia's widow, Begum Khalida Zia, and Hasina Wajed, daughter of another Bangladesh leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, killed in 1975.

Since March, Bangladesh citizens have twice gone to the polls — once for a referendum on whether Gen. Ershad should stay in power and once to elect leaders of newly formed local districts called "Upazila As."

Gen. Ershad claimed 94.14 per cent approval with 76 per cent voting in the referendum. Shah Azizur Rahman called it a "colonial fraud" and said no more than five per cent voted.

Arab-Americans politically more active after election

By James Zogby

THIS IS the second in a series of articles which the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Ra'i publish on the Arab-American community in the U.S. and its entrance into mainstream U.S. politics. In this article, the writer, who is a prominent Arab American and a political activist and organizer, sketches the recent efforts of Arab Americans to build on the experiences of their involvement in the 1984 presidential campaign and to develop themselves as a political constituency within the Democratic and Republican parties. In the article, Dr. Zogby, who is co-founder executive director of the newly-established Arab American Institute (AAI), also reviews a survey he conducted recently in an effort to better understand the political leanings of the Arab-American community in the U.S. Dr. Zogby's first article appeared in last Monday's Jordan Times.

American community, it noted, depends on its integration into the U.S. political system.

Early signs of Arab-American enthusiasm for such local grassroots involvement are not hard to find. On April 2, a number of Arab Americans were involved in local elections in the state of Illinois. One, James Maloof, was elected mayor of Peoria, a city of 125,000. During the last few weeks of his campaign, a number of Arab Americans statewide made an effort to help Mayor Maloof win.

In Dearborn, Mich., a city with 20 per cent Arab Americans and no elected Arab-American officials, two Arab Americans are actively campaigning for the fall of 1985 city council elections. And in Maryland, New York and California, plans are already underway to field Arab-American candidates for the 1986 local elections.

One long-time Arab-American community organizer noted at the AAI conference that if the same Arab-American enthusiasm and financial support generated in the past for the McClosky, Findley and Jackson campaigns could now be channeled to Arab-American local campaigns, "by 1988 we would have 40 to 50 more Arab Americans in public office in the U.S."

During the Jackson and Reagan campaigns, those of us active on a national level noted that one of our goals was to produce Arab-American political veterans in 1984. The formation of the Arab-American Republican Federation and Democratic Clubs, and the new enthusiasm of Arab Americans to run for public office, are the first evidence that our strategy will indeed bear fruit.

Although Arab-Americans have only recently emerged as a visible organized political constituency, they have already demonstrated political sophistication in their activity and their attitudes.

This can be clearly observed in some of the recent election campaigns in which Arab Americans have been involved. In these campaigns, the Arab American input has been magnified beyond their numbers because of the high level of unity and purpose displayed by the community.

For example, when Pete McClosky ran for the U.S. Senate in the 1982 California Republican primary elections, thousands of Arab Americans contributed to his campaign and registered for the Republican Party to be able to support his candidacy. Then in 1984, when Jesse Jackson came to California for the Democratic presidential primary elections, these

same Arab Americans re-registered as Democrats to be able to vote for him. The impact was a significant one.

While this much is clear about Arab-American political activity, less is known about Arab-American political attitudes. No complete study has been done of these attitudes, but in March at the founding meeting of the Arab-American Institute (AAI), the conference organizers made an effort to begin such an examination of Arab-American political leanings.

The study took the form of a detailed questionnaire given to the 160 attendees of the conference. Some 300 Arab-American community leaders had been invited to the AAI event. This number included the national boards and local chapter leadership of the National Association of Arab Americans, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine, the largest and most active grouping of Palestinians in the U.S. Also invited were the leaders of the smaller Arab-American political, humanitarian and academic associations. Finally the group included the national and local leaders of both the Reagan-Bush and Jesse Jackson Arab American support communities.

Of this group, 160 Arab Americans from 24 states came to the conference. They represented a fair cross-section of the invited groups. Their responses to the questionnaire administered by the AAI organizers give us a first look at the political attitudes of Arab American community leaders.

What we find is an articulate and flexible sophisticated political constituency. According to the survey, 52 per cent of these Arab-American leaders are registered Republicans, with only 25 per cent registered as Democrats.

The rest call themselves independents. At the same time that this disproportionately large group is registered Republican, 36 per cent describe themselves as "very liberal" or "liberal," a percentage higher than the national average, while only 20 per cent described themselves as conservative or "very conservative." Equally interesting is the fact that, while only 15 per cent of this largely Republican group voted for Mr. Mondale and 60 per cent voted for Mr. Reagan, in a separate question some 70 per cent indicated that they strongly supported the Jesse Jackson presidential campaign. This "liberal" tilt carries through



James Zogby

ough in responses to questions of domestic and foreign policy. For example, between 72 per cent to 88 per cent, "strongly agreed" or "agreed" with increasing government programmes and spending to encourage small businesses and to aid students, the poor and the disadvantaged. A similar number disagreed with the proposition that there was too much federal spending on such programmes. On the other hand only 9 per cent felt that the defence budget should be increased while 72 per cent disagreed strongly.

While there was obviously very strong concern expressed towards U.S. policy in Lebanon and Palestine, there was also great concern for improving East-West relations, with more than 80 per cent calling for a "bilateral nuclear arms freeze." Also ranking high on the list of areas of concern were South Africa and Central America.

The pattern that emerges is that these Arab Americans, although Republican, are somewhat liberal in their political make-up. Many are concerned with the drift of U.S. foreign policy and have compassion for the poor and less fortunate of their fellow citizens. They voted for Mr. Reagan. Some did so because they expressed a feeling that Mr. Reagan would be more likely to move towards a Middle East peace than Mr. Mondale. But this factor alone was not enough to explain the voting pattern. In answer to three other questions put to the AAI attendees, more than half indicated that the candidates' Middle East position

alone was not enough to earn or lose a vote from these Arab Americans. In fact, the reasons behind the Arab-American vote for Mr. Reagan were probably much like the reasons other ethnic supporters of the Republican standard bearer — ranging from Mr. Mondale's basic weaknesses as a candidate to Mr. Reagan's better protection in his campaign of the values of "family," "tradition" and "hard work" so important to immigrant communities.

A most promising indication of the seriousness with which these Arab Americans viewed their involvement in political life is the fact that 30 per cent of them noted giving more than \$500 each to political candidates in the last four years, while another 45 per cent recorded giving between \$100 to \$500 during this period.

Arab Americans are a new political constituency. Until recently, their votes and their support were not solicited. This changed in 1984.

As the community continues to grow in organization and involvement in the political process, it will need to become articulate on a broad range of issues. As the recent effort by the Arab-American Institute demonstrates, at least among Arab-American leaders, there already exists a great deal of political sophistication. These Arab Americans are neither naive, nor do they reflect the attitudes of a "single-issue" constituency. Rather they appear ready to lead Arab Americans into the complex but rewarding maze of the American political system.

Randa Habib's

Graduating stars

A CASCADE of horns attracted my attention. I rushed to the window and looked: The most astonishing scene was happening there in the street before my eyes.

A row of cars were parading, led by a car with a folding hood, where two young girls, all in white, were saluting the passers-by.

The car just behind, also with a folding hood, showed two men, with video-cameras, shooting all the movements of the girls in white: zooming on their smiling faces, crowned by white flowers, or on their hands which waved uninterrupted.

I was convinced these girls were movie stars. Although I couldn't figure out which.

The cars kept on blowing their horns, and the parade moved to reach the end of the street, turned round about and came back to their starting point.

I felt I must go down and talk to one of the drivers in order to grasp the situation. To my innocent question, a laughing young man told me: "One of these girls is my sister, the other one is my cousin."

I still did not understand.

— "Are you shooting a film?" I enquired.

— "Just a video-film to document this great event?"

— "What event?" I asked, burning with the curiosity typical of my sex and job.

The young man looked at me with astonishment, wondering if I was making a fool of him.

"They have just graduated," he beamed.

Japanese marketing applies Samurai art

Modern Japanese companies are adopting market strategies that are flexible to particular circumstances and their multiple weapons are still not fully appreciated by the U.S. and Europe. Christopher Lorenz looks at a new study on Japan's marketing thrust.

LONDON — Samurai warriors in old Japan learned not one martial art, but several, so that they could choose the best means of attack or defence in any particular situation.

It is the same with the marketing strategy of modern Japanese companies. They will sometimes attack with a karate blow aimed at a competitor's weak spot, sometimes with an aikido side-step, and sometimes with a full-frontal judo throw.

Rather than stick blindly with an approach that succeeds, they are adept at using a multiplicity of competitive weapons with carefully varied degrees of emphasis: price, promotion, product quality, product features, product range, service and distribution. In any one of several combinations, these are employed in order to "flank", encircle or bypass the enemy, or to mount a frontal attack.

Despite Japan's success in penetrating one Western market after another in the last 20 years, U.S. and European companies are still not sufficiently aware of the sophistication and flexibility of such Japanese marketing strategies, warn Professor Philip Kotler, Liam Fahey and Somik Jatusritrak in "The New Competition", a major book published recently.

In a hard-hitting attack on Peter Drucker and other management experts who have claimed that the "Japanese miracle" is nearing its end, Prof. Kotler and his colleagues predict that Japanese industry will reinforce its position in its existing world markets, and point out that it is already starting to invade new ones, including fashion, cosmetics, banking, machine tools and medical equipment. Yet the established Western producers "have hardly recognised the threat or bothered to construct counter-strategies."

Not only that, but Japanese marketing techniques are beginning to be emulated with success by what the authors call "The Gang of Four": South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong. A "Gang of Five" will follow: India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

"When these nations get their act together, and it may occur in the mid-1990s, they will flood the world markets with high quality and low cost products... and then there is China."

If Western companies want to fight back against Japan and new Asian "gangs" by borrowing some of their weapons, they must first start to think more long-term, argue Kotler and Co. And they must develop a "marketing culture", rather than one which is preoccupied with production and sales.

The authors condemn American industry's preoccupation with short-term profits, and its reluctance to mount protracted Japanese-style campaigns to win market share.

This is not an original criticism: since the late 1970s there has been a growing chorus of complaint in the United States and elsewhere, especially Britain, about this so-called "paper entrepreneurship". But the viciousness of the book's onslaught is unusual. It is given added weight by Prof. Kotler's position as a leading thinker in the U.S. marketing community — which is itself often criticised for short-term "myopia".

It is all too easy just to exploit today's opportunities, rather than also prepare for tomorrow, warns "The New Competition". This was the essence of the American response to the Japanese invasion of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s: U.S. firms "milked the product markets they had painfully established, and committed very few resources to fending off the Japanese. To do so would have meant giving up some profits to earn or preserve future profits."

Pricing is a strategic weapon, in other words — just like everything else in Japanese marketing — Financial Times news feature.

China saves its soil, starts exporting grain

Despite its large population, for the first time China will this year become a major net exporter of grain. Parts of its countryside have been literally remade, the result of a 10-year peasant war on soil erosion.

By Zhang Bihua

CHANGWU COUNTY, China — In 1985 the world's select club of large-scale grain exporters will face new competition. Their rival is China, whose foreign grain sales could climb to a record five million tonnes this year.

"After a whole decade's efforts to remake nature, we're now rewarded," said 43-year-old Li Zhikui of Changwu county, in China's northern province of Shaanxi. Li Zhikui belongs to a community of peasant farmers who have participated in a 10-year national campaign to stop soil erosion.

"We used to dread the coming of the rains, although they were so badly needed," he related. "Because of the advanced state of soil erosion around here a sudden heavy downpour could sweep away large parts of the fields, and the crops with them. But we don't have that nightmare anymore. Every family has more than enough grain now."

Li Zhikui recently moved with his wife and two children into a new house — a sign of the relaxation of poverty which bumper harvests have brought. According to the International Wheat Council, commercial destinations for

China's grain this year include Japan, Korea, Jordan and Zambia, with reports of a recent large rail shipment to the USSR. China is also donating grain to a number of drought-stricken African countries.

Changwu's efforts to reclaim its degraded farmland typify China's anti-erosion activities in many once fertile areas. By the time the new China was founded in 1949, about 95 per cent of the country's landscape was badly eroded. Its surface had been cut by run-off into 634 huge gullies up to 200 metres deep. In the rainy season mud torrents rushed down the gullies into the Jin River — a tributary of the Yellow River — destroying fields and houses, and killing people and farm animals.

Successful soil stabilisation will mitigate flooding of the Yellow River, known for thousands of years as "China's Sorrow". Changwu, for example, stands on a plateau of wind-deposited fine clay and silt about twice the size of the U.K. Topsoil washed from the plateau is carried by tributaries into the Yellow River, accumulating in its lower reaches at a rate of 1.6 billion tonnes a year.

Changwu county used to be a fertile, well-wooded land and a

traffic hub on the ancient Silk Road. Its fortunes fell after centuries of reckless ploughing and deforestation stripped the plateau of its life-supporting soil.

Though conservation efforts began as early as the 1950s, no well planned attack on erosion was made until 1974, when the peasantry was mobilised as if for a military campaign.

Every year after the summer, and autumn harvests, the peasants would spend several months reshaping the surface of the land under the guidance of local administrators and conservation experts. They levelled sloping crop fields, flanking them with trees on all sides. Gentle slopes were terraced with ridges about two metres high between the terraces.

Treed ridges were built on the edges of gullies to ensure that little or no topsoil washed down into the ravines. Small earth dams were built in the gullies in staircase fashion to blockade soil-laden run-off.

Steep slopes were reforested, interspersed with small pits dug in a fish-scale pattern. These serve as mini-reservoirs, containing run-off until it can be fully absorbed. The terraced fields, tree-belts and water-detention ponds have transformed Changwu's soil into a thirsty sponge. According to Wang Hong, an anti-erosion expert, as much as 100 mm of rain per 24 hours can be absorbed by soil

where such measures are carried out. Per hectare grain yield is increased by 30 per cent.

Nearly 70 per cent of the county's 2,500 hectares (6,175 acres) of farmland have been reshaped, and 1,700 hectares (4,199 acres) of denuded slopes are now treed. The area covered by vegetation (2.3 per cent in the 1950s) has been raised to 22 per cent.

Wang Hong calculates that soil loss has been reduced by nearly 30 per cent when compared to the 1950s rate. Concentrated attention on soil and water management have resulted in average national paddy yields in China of over three tonnes per hectare (1.2 tonnes per acre). By comparison yields in India have only just touched 1.6 tonnes.

The county's grain output has trebled in the last decade, reversing Changwu's reliance on government relief. Income from agriculture has increased 3.5 times. A winery, a paper mill and a pharmaceuticals factory have been set up using local resources. Fruit is grown, and the surplus is shipped to other parts of China. A beef-canning factory is planned for the area.

Last year the Li family harvested 2.2 tonnes of wheat and one tonne of maize. Extra income came from growing medicinal herbs and saplings, and totalled 1,100 yuan, (approximately \$550). "Everything grows bigger and faster than before," says Li



A battery of techniques are used to combat erosion in the Changwu county, Shaanxi province, China, including the planting of wind-breaking tree belts (Earthscan photo)

Zhikui. "We managed to buy a cow with the income from the sales of last year's surplus grain, and the cow calved in spring."

Despite the expected record 1985 harvest, recent official sta-

tements have stressed that China does not intend to become a regular net exporter of grain. The priority will continue to be to balance domestic supplies — Earthscan feature.

Viking adventurous spirit lives on in modern Norwegians

By Audun Eckhoff

OSLO — The Viking spirit of adventure and travel lives on in modern Norwegians, but on a less violent scale than their infamous looting ancestors.

Norwegians are going forth in style, quelling prosperous careers to launch exciting and unusual ventures.

This year film producer Ragnar Thorseth repeated the legendary journey of Leif Eriksson, the man many consider to have discovered America 1,000 years ago, sailing some of the world's most hostile waters in a tiny Viking boat.

Olaf Orheim, a glacier expert,

has just returned from his 12th expedition to the Antarctic. His favourite hobby is taking tourists along Norway's biggest glacier in his summer holiday.

But the grandfather of the modern Vikings is Thor Heyerdahl, who began his famous exploring career in 1947 with the Kon-Tiki expedition, and is still globe-trotting at the age of 71.

Mr. Heyerdahl is currently planning to resume excavations on Easter Island in a joint Norwegian-Chilean operation.

Kon-Tiki, which involved crossing the Pacific Ocean in a small balsam-wood raft to prove theories of contact between the people of South America and Southeast

Asia, gained Mr. Heyerdahl worldwide fame and appointment to the New York and Soviet academies of science.

For 37-year-old Thorseth, a craggy blonde-haired, blue-eyed man, crossing from Norway to Newfoundland via Greenland in a tiny replica of Viking ships was "something to do".

He captured the attention of Americans as he sailed down the eastern sea coast with his flimsy-looking Saga Siglar (saga sails) that had weathered 70-knot storms off Greenland.

On a slightly less grand scale, a team of Norwegians led by a successful stockbroker has just returned after conquering Mount

Everest. Mr. Orheim said: "I guess only a distinctive kind of man is drawn to such expeditions but these experiences widen one's scope. Many political quarrels seem insignificant after you have mastered all the problems... in the Antarctic."

The urge to wander is not confined to a few hardy explorers. Figures from Norway's Central Bureau of Statistics show that every second Norwegian travelled abroad last year.

The average Norwegian is also a wanderer in the summer. Most think little of family hikes of over 100 kilometres with food tucked into rucksacks, children trotting

behind and few worries over where they will sleep that night.

In the hard Arctic winter, Norwegians virtually live with cross country skis on their feet, using the weekend to set off on marathon treks that even the youngest enjoy.

A trait Norwegians have in common with the Vikings is the ability to enjoy themselves to the full after exhausting travel.

Drinking alcohol during the week is rare, but Norwegians more than make up for this when relaxing. Aquavit, a potato-based spirit, is consumed with gusto at country inns.

However, the modern Norwegian bears little resemblance to

the fearsome Vikings who launched ferocious attacks on England, Scotland, Ireland and France in the 10th and 11th centuries.

The oldest known description of Viking raids tells of one on a church at Lindisfarne, northeast England.

That year the Northumbrians were agonised by terrifying omens. There were disastrous cyclones and lightning in the sky.

"Most remarkable is the number who left their native country, though many came back. According to some estimates, as many as 40,000 Norwegians went away, out of a population then numbering possibly less than 200,000," Prof. Holmboe said.

Navratilova-Shriver win Paris women's doubles

Wilander beats Lendl, wins Paris open's title

PARIS (R) — Mats Wilander of Sweden reclaimed the French Open tennis crown when he toppled title-holder Ivan Lendl 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in the final at Roland Garros Sunday.

Wilander, the youngest winner of the French title three years ago when he was 17, outlasted Lendl in a test of endurance in which he showed the greater variety and consistency.

Lendl, who had not dropped a set on his way to the final, seemed to be heading along the same path to victory as he asserted his domination to take the first set.

But Wilander, ever patient, did not succumb, and ultimately gained total supremacy over the second-seeded Czechoslovak, just as he had against top seeded John McEnroe in the semifinals.

The Swede, winner of the Aus-

tralian Open at the end of last year, is now in line for a one million dollar bonus if he can complete the Grand Slam by adding the Wimbledon and U.S. titles.

Chris Evert-Lloyd, who beat Martina Navratilova in the women's singles final Saturday, is also halfway to the prize.

Navratilova gained a measure of consolation Sunday when she shared two doubles victories in matches switched from the centre court to court one because rain delayed the start of play.

She teamed up with American Pam Shriver to beat West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch and Hel-

ena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, the pair's 99th successive win and eighth Grand Slam title in a row, to retain the women's doubles.

Navratilova then went back out on court to partner Swiss Heinz Guenthardt in the mixed doubles, which they won 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 against Francisco Gonzalez of Paraguay and Paula Smith of the U.S.

On the centre court, Lendl could not repeat the magnificent comeback he achieved in last year's final when he came back from the sets down to overcome McEnroe.

Wilander, a master of clay court play, had the patience to pull back after Lendl had taken the first set, the stamina to cope with the Czechoslovak's efforts to outmanoeuvre him and the imagination to outplay his adversary and gain the ascendancy.

Moukhtar wins French Derby with ease

PARIS (R) — The Aga Khan's Moukhtar imperiously strode to victory in the French Derby and gave jockey Yves Saint-Martin his eighth triumph in the classic race at Chantilly.

Moukhtar took the mile and a half Prix du Jockey-club event by two and half lengths from second-placed Air de Cour, with Premier Role four lengths away in third place.

Unbeaten Moukhtar was the second consecutive winner of the French Derby for the Aga Khan, Saint-Martin and trainer Alain de Royer Duple.

Moukhtar took control seven furlongs from home and was never in danger of defeat in an 11-strong field, Saint-Martin said of his

mount after the race: "He is an exceptional horse who has never been under pressure in his life."

Moukhtar has now won all his five races, and the Aga Khan said: "Moukhtar is a little nervous so we might not travel him for either the King George (at Ascot, England) or the Irish Derby. The latter is just a possibility but a probable programme is the Prix Niel followed by the Arc de Triomphe."

The Aga Khan won the jockey-club with Top Ville in 1979 and Darshaan last year.

Eric Legrix always had Air de Cour well up but Daniel Wildestein's colt never promised to get on terms with Moukhtar.

Legrix said: "My horse ran a great race and it must not be forgotten that it was only the third of his career."

Premier Role did not have a very lucky run in the straight and Lester Piggot remarked of fourth-placed Bellwater: "My horse did not stay and the ground was too soft."

Baillamont just pipped the 10-1 on favourite Metal Precious in the group one Prix Jean Prat. The pair had the race to themselves throughout the final two furlongs and Baillamont literally pushed his nose to the front on the line.

Eight lengths away was third-placed Silvermine, who won last month's Poule d'Essai des Poulaches (French 1,000 Guineas).

North and South Ireland celebrate McGuigan win of WBA boxing title

LONDON (AP) — All Ireland, north and south, Protestant and Roman Catholic, was celebrating Saturday night as Barry McGuigan dethroned Panama's legendary Eusebio Pedroza to capture the World Boxing Association featherweight title.

In these islands' biggest boxing match since Henry Cooper fought Muhammad Ali for the world heavyweight title in 1966, McGuigan, won a unanimous points decision after flooring the Panamanian in the seventh round of the 15-round bout.

Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald congratulated McGuigan, 24, on a "magnificent victory."

"With everyone else in Ireland, I watched the fight with bated breath," he said in a telegram.

Said Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Douglas Hurd: "The whole community in Northern Ireland unites in saluting your magnificent achievement."

From Dublin to Belfast, thousands of fans took to the streets, chanting, singing, carrying banners and parading to the sound of honking car horns.

McGuigan, a Catholic who fights out from Belfast in British-ruled Northern Ireland but is nicknamed "the Clones Cyclone" after his birth place in the Irish Republic, attacked Pedroza from the opening bell and gradually wore down his grim-faced opp-

onent with relentless body and head punches.

It was the 29-year-old Pedroza's first loss in 20 title defences stretching back to April 1978.

"I'm sure delighted," said McGuigan, in tears as he was joined by his wife Sandra, a Protestant, and 18-month-old son in the ring afterward. "I'm so glad to have beaten such a renowned champion."

McGuigan came into the ring at the Queen's Park Rangers soccer stadium in west London carrying a blue flag emblazoned with a white dove of peace. He stood as his father sang a haunting rendition of the Irish folk ballad "Londonderry air (Danny Boy)," an Irish leprechaun dancing a jig at ringside.

The choice of anthem and flag was designed to show the determination of McGuigan, a Roman Catholic, to represent both Ireland and Northern Ireland and to bridge the religious divide between minority Catholics and majority Protestants in the north.

McGuigan, the only European currently to hold a world title, improved his record to 26-1-0.

He told reporters in his dressing room: "I intend to go on being the champion."

He also revealed he had been suffering from an elbow injury in the days leading up to the fight.

"I was unable to train for four

days because of pulled ligaments in my elbow," McGuigan said. "People have been coming secretly to my hotel to give me treatment."

Pedroza, whose record fell to 40-4-1, left the arena refusing to speak to reporters.

In Clones, Ireland, fire broke out early Sunday in the home of McGuigan's family hours after he defeated Pedroza.

Police said the fire apparently started in the kitchen of the McGuigan home and grocery store in Clones, county Monaghan, a town of 2,000 near the border with Northern Ireland.

The new champion's mother Kate and sister Rachel were led to safety, police reported. Though there were no injuries, damage to the house was extensive, a police spokesman said.

Elsewhere in Clones, villagers sang and danced in the streets to celebrate the 24-year-old McGuigan's 15-round decision Saturday night over Pedroza. A continuous stream of well-wishers paid calls on the McGuigan family home.

The celebrations mirrored those elsewhere in Ireland and in British-ruled Northern Ireland where McGuigan commands fanatical support from both Catholics and Protestants.

Police said the fire was believed to have started accidentally.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bayern's Koeg's celebration doubles

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich winger Ludwig Koeg had a double celebration Saturday. Shortly after helping his team win the West German soccer league title, 19-year-old Koeg learned he had been called up by national team manager Franz Beckenbauer for next week's trip to Mexico for matches against England and the host country. The uncapped Koeg, who has emerged as one of Bayern's stars in his first season after joining from neighbours TSV Munich 1860, replaces injured Hamburg midfielder Wolfgang Rolff.

Bates retains Manchester tennis title

ENGLAND (AP) — England's Jeremy Bates retained his men's singles title at the Greater Manchester Grasscourt Tennis Tournament Saturday with a straight-sets 6-4, 6-2 victory over third-seeded American Dan Cassidy. Cassidy, a 23-year-old from Hollywood, Florida, found the cold, blustery conditions in this west England industrial city difficult to handle. Bates, named on Wednesday to the English team in next week's Davis Cup contest with Portugal, showed better ball control on the rain-dampened court. The unseeded Bates became the first British player to retain the Manchester title since the late Mike Sangster, who won in 1962-63. The last player to retain the title was the American Billy Martin 1977-78.

Peking's parachuters set world record

TOKYO (AP) — China's Peking parachuting team set a world record Saturday in the four-man rotation event at the national parachuting championships held in Shashi in Hubei province south of Peking, the official Chinese News Agency Xinhua said. It said the Peking team composed of Wang Yongli, Chen Li, Zhang Lin and Han Yiqiang, completed 23 figures in one jump, surpassing its own records of 22 figures set in 1983.

Iraq beat Canada 6-1 in president cup

SEOUL (R) — Kerim Minshid scored a hat-trick in Iraq's 6-1 (5-0) win over Canada in a second-round group 'B' match in the President Cup Soccer Tournament in South Korea's southwestern Kwangju city Sunday. In another group 'B' match, the South Korean national team beat Argentina's professional side Alentico Huracan 4-1 (2-0). Eight teams are divided into two groups for the current round-Robin series. Defending champions Bangu A.C. of Brazil, Bahrain, Uruguay's Espanol and South Korea's World Cup team are in group 'A'. The two top teams from each group will advance to the semifinals on June 15.

Banks makes the 2nd longest triple jump

LOS ANGELES (R) — Willie Banks, who waited nine months for another crack at the triple jump at the Los Angeles coliseum after a disappointing Olympics finish, Saturday seized the opportunity and made the second longest jump ever.

The 29-year-old American covered 17.67 metres to highlight the inaugural coliseum classic athletics meeting.

Banks' prodigious jump was the longest ever at sea level. The world record of 17.89 was set by Joao Oliveira of Brazil on October 15, 1975, in the high altitude of Mexico City.

"This meant an awful lot to me today," said Banks, who finished sixth at the summer games.

"I've given 15 good years to this sport and all of a sudden after I didn't get the gold medal I started to get treated like dirt. I've been waiting for this to happen so I can vent my frustrations."

A meagre crowd of only 6,700 was on hand to witness the first athletics competition here since the Olympics.

Double Olympic bronze medalist Merlene Ottey-Page of Jamaica was a double winner Saturday as she captured the women's 100-metre dash in 10.93 seconds and the 200-metre event in 22.16.

Another medallist from last

year's Olympics, American Kirk Baptista, won the men's 200-metre dash in 20.21.

Baptista finished second in the men's 100-metre dash, which was won by countryman Darwin Cook in 10.23.

Riggs takes part in another 'battle of the sexes'

By Jack Cavanaugh
Renoir

NEW YORK — Twelve years after losing to Billie Jean King in tennis' first "battle of the sexes", Bobby Riggs is training for a mixed doubles game with a difference.

For Riggs, now 67, and fellow American Vitas Gerulaitis have challenged the world's leading women's doubles pair, Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver, to a five-set match in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on August 23.

As brash as ever, Riggs is confident he and the equally-outspoken Gerulaitis will beat the women in the "challenge of the sexes" match and claim the winners' cheque of \$300,000. The losers take \$200,000.

But many tennis experts believe that Riggs and Gerulaitis, past his prime at 31, will be biting off much more than they can chew in Atlantic City.

The match came about after a remark by Gerulaitis, during last year's U.S. Open Tennis championships. He said the 100th-ranked men's player would easily beat Navratilova, the best all-round women's player for many years.

"I'd bet my house on it," Gerulaitis added.

An offended Navratilova, the world number one, said she felt she would have a good chance of beating the 100th-ranked man — and perhaps a few male players ranked even higher.

Gerulaitis said he had not meant to denigrate women's tennis by his comments.

"I'm not going to make any apology. I wasn't being nasty. I was just giving the facts. I think Martina and Chris Evert Lloyd should get the same money as the men at the open, but that the rest of the women shouldn't."

The New Yorker hedged his bets at a press conference this week, declining to predict a male victory, but Riggs was in no doubt.

"We'll win because my partner will be by far the superior player on the court," said Riggs, who won the Wimbledon singles championship in 1939 and the U.S. nationals, the precursor of the U.S. Open, in 1939 and 1941.

But Riggs was not so sure when he was asked if he was the same player who beat Margaret Court of Australia, then the world number one, in 1973 and lost to King at the Houston AstroDome.

"I'm certainly older now, but I'm still a fair player. But I'll be playing with a great player against two good players and we'll beat them."

Shriver, who has won 95 straight doubles matches with Navratilova, needed Gerulaitis good-naturedly over the match.

"You must be having trouble with the guys to get involved in something like this," she said to Gerulaitis, who has had difficulty winning matches lately.

Though he was beaten by King 6-4, 6-3 in a match that attracted world-wide attention, Riggs became the beneficiary of numerous commercial endorsements.

Currently first in the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) rankings in the 65-year-old division, Riggs was a tennis "hustler" well before his matches against Court and King.

Over the years, he has played, and usually won, tennis matches against players of lesser skills while encumbered with a suitcase, umbrella or pail of water, or with chairs strewn about his side of the court.

Lately Riggs, an excellent golfer, has seen more action on the golf course than on the tennis court.

But he has continued playing tennis, winning 47 senior titles, a record second only to that of Gardner Mulloy, with whom he often plays doubles.

"I'm in as good shape as ever," Riggs said. "I weighed 165 pounds when I played Billie Jean, but will come in at about 150 for Martina and Pam."

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هولاء منة الاحول

Economic boom in Spain goes sour

MADRID — Since the beginning of the year the Spanish economy has been drifting off course.

As the country enters the final stretch in its journey towards European Community (EC) membership, the prospect for halting job losses after two and a half years of Socialist rigour are vanishing over the horizon. Government and Socialist labour leaders are increasingly questioning policy priorities.

Mr. Felipe Gonzalez's Socialists came to power when unemployment had reached the psychological mark of 2 million. It is now touching 3 million. Making matters worse, after an export boom that evolved into a spectacular and totally unplanned turnaround in the external account last year, the economy is now doing less well than expected.

Forecasts that domestic consumption would take over as a source of growth and that the erosion of jobs would finally stop are not being fulfilled.

Although the government still hopes for improvement, and says this year's first-quarter job figures show the least negative trend for some years, it has begun to reckon on a further loss in total employment of 100,000 to 150,000 jobs this year.

Unemployment, as calculated by the National Statistics Institute, reached 2.92 million in the first quarter, 31 per cent more than when the Socialists came to power, and 22 per cent of the active population — the highest rate in Europe.

The figure, based on a survey

sample, is considered the most reliable measure, since many jobless do not appear in the totals of registered job-seekers.

Part of the increase comes from the inclusion of 120,000 farm labourers in southern Spain who were previously counted as employed because they were involved in community work schemes. But even without them, the increase is dramatic, in country where the benefit system reaches fewer than 40 per cent.

Despite last year's successes — record exports and a significant drop in inflation — more jobs were lost than the year before, and the rate was accelerating in the second half as export-led growth tailed off.

"We have too few entrepreneurs," a member of the government complains bitterly, "and many of those we have are bad ones." If jobs are the dark side of the economy, the Socialist government can boast a number of achievements.

Inflation came down to nine per cent last year, the first single-digit figure since democracy was restored. Exports in dollar terms rose 20 per cent, the trade deficit at \$5.2 billion came down 45 per cent, and the current account of the balance of payments swung from a \$2.5 billion deficit to a \$2 billion surplus.

Foreign exchange reserves were strengthened by 40 per cent, reaching their highest ever level of \$16 billion, as the authorities started encouraging borrowers to repay their foreign loans early and swap them for peseta credits.

What was seen as the basis for a lasting recovery now appears less solid. Growth last year is generally reckoned to have been somewhat lower than the 2.5 per cent announced by the government, and this year's 3 per cent aim no longer stands.

Prices spurred again in the first few months of the year, and the government's forecast is now for an inflation rate of around 7.5 to 8 per cent, slightly above the original target. Others say the trend could lead back to double figures. The start-up of value-added tax next year is fuelling inflationary expectations.

Consumption levels in the wake of last year's lower inflation are disappointing, partly influenced by the rise in unemployment.

Exports have hardly increased. The peseta rose last year against the main EC currencies, taking the wind out of the boom, and subsequent declines have not restored the competitive edge. Sales to the U.S. have dropped sharply, and the current account is expected to stay in surplus but not by much.

The changed outlook prompted a series of measures, announced in April by Mr. Miguel Boyer, the economy "superminister", to reactivate consumption and investment.

The boost to consumption is designed to come from \$600 million worth of personal income tax cuts. Reductions for most taxpayers of between one and nine per cent will be followed by new tax scales in next year's budget.

Companies are given the freedom to claim depreciation on the

new fixed investments whenever they choose, an important change in conditions. Foreign investment is virtually freed from authorisation procedures, new companies become easier to start up, incentives for job creation and youth employment are extended and indirect help provided for the building industry, which has been in deep recession.

But the package, a mix of economic stimulation and pre-EC liberalisation measures, was poorly presented and hard to digest, and the government has drawn little or no political benefit from it.

The Socialist UGT union, up to now the less aggressive of the two big labour confederations, complained that tax cuts smacked of Reaganomics and did not square with simultaneous government plans for cutting future pensions.

Mr. Nicolas Redondo, the UGT leader, has pointed the finger of blame for the first time directly at Mr. Gonzalez, writing off the last two years of austerity as "an utter failure" and accusing the government of improvising.

The creation of jobs and the maintenance of real wages, which were points one and two in the Socialists' proposed "100 measures", have returned to the centre of debate. Mr. Redondo, who is also a Socialist member of parliament and could once have taken over the party leadership, threatens to divide the Socialist camp. With elections having to be held by autumn next year, this has now become a major political worry — Financial Times news feature.

Ministers discuss trade barriers

STOCKHOLM (R) — Protectionism and the possibility of a new round of international talks to safeguard free trade are the key issues at an informal meeting of ministers from 21 countries beginning in Stockholm Sunday.

"The most urgent issue facing the world economy today is the rising trend of protectionism," Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe told reporters Saturday night. "A new round of multilateral negotiations is badly needed."

The Stockholm talks, for which there is no formal agenda, were suggested by Sweden's Foreign Trade Minister Mats Hellstrom, to enable industrialised and developing countries to discuss inadequacies in existing trade rules.

Japan and the United States are leading advocates of a new round of GATT, the 90-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. They are supported by other industrial countries such as West Germany and Britain.

Mr. Abe singled out protectionist proposals now before the U.S. Congress as the most serious issue in international trade.

Continued protectionism would throw the world economy into total confusion and history showed that reduced trade could even-

nually lead to political confrontation, he said.

Sources at the talks said ministers, who will meet without their aides while experts conduct parallel talks, would discuss subsidies to industry, and agriculture, export credits and bilateral trade agreements outside the GATT framework.

Third World debtor nations such as Argentina, Brazil and the Philippines are likely to use the talks to press for improved access to Western markets for their exports, arguing that this is essential to assist them to repay their huge foreign debts.

Many developing countries are opposed to a new GATT round because they fear they could lose existing trade advantages.

Western countries want GATT rules extended to the service sector, including banking, insurance and information technology, which now accounts for up to a quarter of world trade.

Western sources at the meeting said they did not expect substantial progress from the talks but hoped they might result in agreement that preparatory talks for a new GATT round at senior official level should start this summer.

There was also a chance that the 21 participating countries, most of whom are represented by their trade ministers, would agree to a standstill in further trade restrictions pending new multilateral negotiations, the sources said.

Top officials to review crisis in Africa

PARIS (R) — Ministers and top farm officials from the industrial and developing worlds meet here this week under a United Nations banner to try to develop long-term solutions to Africa's food crisis.

The ministerial meeting of the U.N. World Food Council (WFC) will concentrate heavily on the African problem, reviewing emergency famine relief for sub-

Saharan Africa and seeking programmes to overcome the region's chronic inability to feed itself, WFC Executive Director Maurice Williams told reporters.

No binding decisions will emerge from the meeting, but its conclusions are likely to play a major role in formulating future food aid, production and trade policies of the 36 WFC member gov-

ernments, he said.

The gathering will also offer a chance for the United States and Western Europe to thrash out an increasingly bitter quarrel over subsidised grain exports to the developing world.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block and French Farm Minister Henri Nallet, the main fig-

ures in the dispute, are due to meet privately Sunday ahead of the four-day conference starting Monday.

Last week, Washington, faced by a deepening farm-belt depression, announced a proposed one million tonne wheat sale to Algeria aided by a free distribution from government stocks.

Malaysia reins foreign borrowings

KUALA LUMPUR — Less than two years ago, some anxious spirits at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington voiced concern that excessive foreign borrowing by the Malaysian government might push domestic finances and the balance of payments out of control. There was even talk of Malaysia as the "next Mexico."

In Kuala Lumpur, a growing realisation that its international credit rating might be threatened led the government to intensify counter-measures it had begun. It slashed spending, though mainly in development rather than recurrent outgoings, and took a grip on the previously uncontrolled spending and borrowing of numerous state agencies.

Latest figures on the economy, published in April by the central bank, show the success achieved thus far.

The overall public-sector deficit, embracing the federal government, 13 state governments and 27 so-called "off-budget agencies", narrowed for the second year in a row in 1984.

So did the current account deficit, which fell sharply from MS7.5 billion (\$3 billion) in 1983 to MS4.15 billion — standing at 5.8 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) — and was much better than forecast even as late as last October.

But the most interesting trends are on the external debt front.

Malaysia's total foreign debt, at MS37 billion, is now higher than ever before and will go still higher. Yet the country continues to secure the finest terms on the international capital markets and is managing to smooth out the debt repayment "hump" it faces for the rest of the decade.

Malaysia got into its jam two years ago because it tried to spend its way out of the world recession which followed the 1979 oil price jump.

Being politically stable and resource-rich, it was attractive to bankers. But the recession went on too long, and by the time the policy reversal became necessary, borrowing trends were already ominous.

In 1981, for example, the federal government's foreign debt jumped 60 per cent, and the country's total external debt, including private-sector obligations, had risen to MS15.4 billion. Three years later, even with the policy changes, it had hit MS37 billion, and it has yet to peak, probably at around MS40 billion, officials say.

Given the sort of grace periods offered on repayments, it was inevitable that debt servicing would become increasingly burdensome in the mid-1980s. By last year it was already close to 2½ times the 1981 level at MS5.3 billion, and thus a major contributor to the high invisible deficit on the balance of payments.

So, refinancing some of this has become of paramount importance, especially with interest rates lower than in the early 1980s when some of the debt was first incurred. Two \$60 million floating rate note issues, arranged last October and in April, have been made with the aim of smoothing out Malaysia's debt profile.

Ministry of Finance officials are reluctant to give anyone, even bankers, statistical details of the 1986-90 repayment profile which would show the magnitude of the problem and how far it has been neutralised. But they say they are not yet half-way through the refinancing process, and they est-

imate that it will take another couple of years to complete, provided the market remains attractive.

Certainly federal government debt-service payments will be lower in 1985 and 1986 than last year, as will external borrowing.

The willingness of opportunity-short lenders to help a country such as Malaysia, and the country's success in diversifying its borrowings, is shown by some of the loans arranged since the beginning of 1984:

— Two \$600 million floating-rate notes. The one offered last October was of 25 years' maturity and carried a one-eighth spread over London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR). The April issue was even more remarkable — a 30-year "mismatched floater", allowing Malaysia to repay at less than LIBOR.

— A \$500 million 10-year syndicated loan raised in May 1984. This consisted of a \$300 million tranche at a marginal ½ point above Libman, the mean of the London interbank bid and offer rates, for the first four years (and ½ point above LIBOR subsequently), and a \$200 million tranche at ½ point above LIBOR.

This portion offered a tax advantage because of an Anglo-Malaysian taxation agreement, and its popularity caused the loan to be oversubscribed. Even now it has yet to be drawn down.

— Three \$120 million 10-year Samurai bonds issued in Tokyo, the latest of which was raised in May, and a \$59.52 million bulldog bond with a lengthy 24-year life issued in April in London. Malaysia also issued a \$32 million bond in Switzerland a year ago and a \$29.41 million Dutch bond a month later.

Earlier, in March 1984, Malaysia tapped the Canadian market with a \$110.29 million syndicated loan. All were on attractive terms.

On top of this, multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank — those which had previously voiced concern about Malaysia's economic management — are said now to be keen to lend more for development projects in Malaysia.

Malaysian officials add that the turnaround in the figures also has won the applause of no less a body than the IMF. An IMF team on its regular annual visit recently is said to have voiced surprise at how much had been achieved in so short a time.

None of this means the government's problems are over. The current account deficit remains a priority in economic management, and the debt-servicing burden continues to be heavy — in 1984, repayments on federal government loans, government guaranteed loans and private-sector debt amounted to 11.9 per cent of gross exports (7.9 per cent excluding the private sector).

Although this is smaller than in many developing countries, it will still encourage policymakers in their fundamental aim of reducing the involvement of the public sector in the economy and promoting the private sector.

The success of that will depend on other reforms being planned — also, ironically, with the assistance of bodies like the IMF and the World Bank. The most important of these will be contained in the Industrial Master Plan, due to be unveiled shortly, and next year's Fifth Malaysia Plan, covering the period 1986-90 — Financial Times news feature.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Early morning brings you the chance to benefit through some imaginative ideas you have been reducing to reality. You find considerable confusion between various points of view.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Come to an agreement with a person in business. Doing something that will please the one you love brings fine rewards.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Cement better relations with a dynamic associate in the morning, and then do nothing to upset the appealer.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy at work ahead of you and you can accomplish a great deal today, but first get it well organized.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be sure to get creative ideas across to others in the morning. Steer clear of blockages in the path of your progress.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You begin the day properly by wanting to handle your obligations in the right way and can do just that now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) That situation between you and a partner comes right out into the open, and you settle it wisely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make those changes in your surroundings that will bring you more happiness and comfort as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This can be a good day for you if you make up your mind that nothing can upset you, no matter what happens.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If an argument starts at home, take no part in it. Forget about entertaining there and plan for another day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get at your correspondence early since later you may not find favor with others, so rest up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Go over your accounts for possible errors, and then make the collections possible and pay bills that are pressing.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have good judgment in the morning, but later could lose your cool over comments from others if you are not careful.

U.S. farm land prices plummet 12 per cent

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. farm land plummeted 12 per cent in value during the past year, a drop that was so precipitous it delayed release of the information while statisticians scrambled to double-check their figures, the Agriculture Department says.

The decline was the largest one-year drop in farm land values since the Great Depression in the 1930s, and it marked the fourth-straight year of falling prices for agricultural acreage, the department said last week.

Reasons for the decline included farmers' credit problems, low commodity prices, high interest rates and the large number of farms flooding the land market, department researcher Mr. Bill Henneberry said.

"There's an awful lot of land on the market right now," Mr. Henneberry noted. "There are auctions where the land doesn't sell because the seller isn't willing to take such a low price."

The 12 per cent drop in the year ending April 1 followed declines of one per cent in 1984, 6 per cent in 1983 and one per cent in 1982, which was a peak year for agricultural prices.

The steepest one-year drop on record was the 1933 figure of 19 per cent.

With the effect of four per cent inflation taken into account, the real value of land was off by 16 per

cent, the department said.

Hardest hit were the corn belt in the central states, Great Lake states and the northern plains, all of which suffered losses of 20 per cent or more.

Six new England states — Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut — fared best, actually gaining 14 per cent in value, a reflection of demand for residential or other non-farm land uses.

The annual assessment of farm land values is compiled through surveys of farmers, lenders, real estate agents, appraisers, farm managers and others involved in farm land markets.

This year's report had been scheduled for release a week earlier but was delayed in part because the latest figures were so extreme that department analysts wanted to go over them again, Mr. Henneberry said.

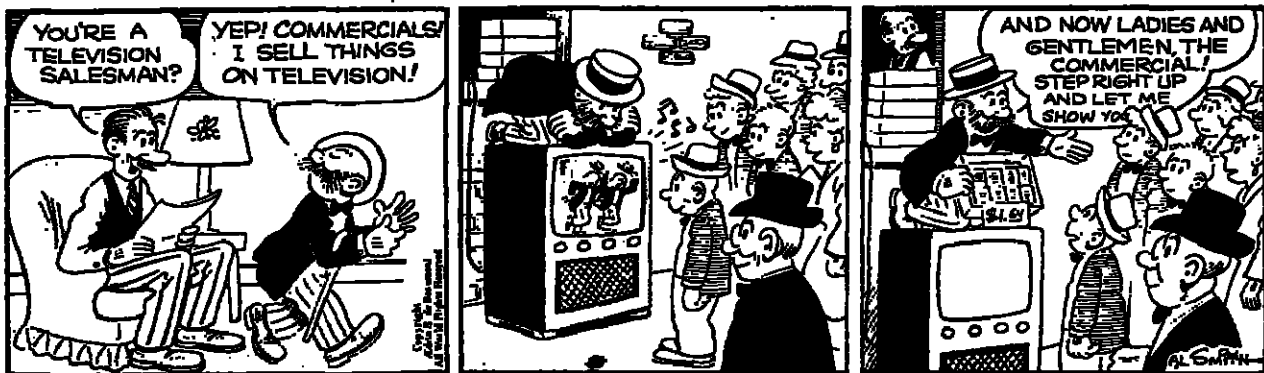
Farm land nationally averaged \$697 an acre on April 1, the report said, down from \$782 last year. The largest percentage decline came in Iowa, a centre of the past year's farm financial problems, where values were off 29 per cent.

Nebraska was close behind at a 28 per cent drop. Prices were down 27 per cent in Illinois, and South Dakota saw values drop 26 per cent.

Peanuts



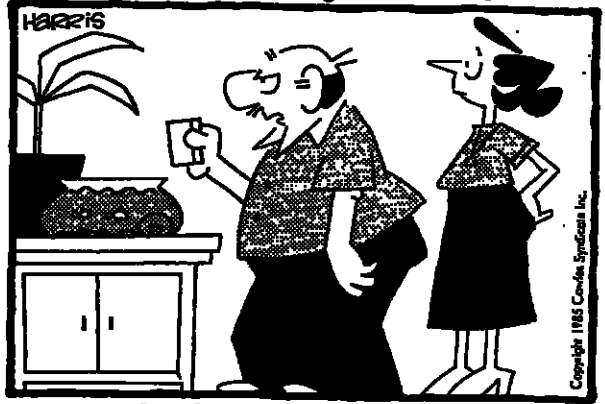
Mutt 'n' Jeff



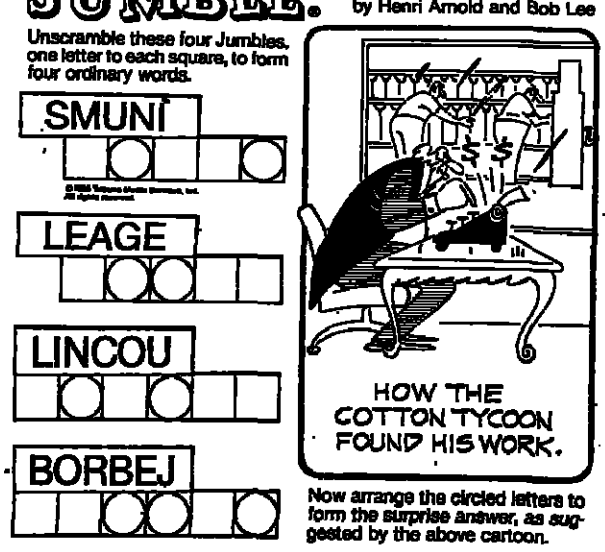
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: VERY

Yesterday's Jumble: FAULT BLESS ATTACH EVOLVE

Answer: Why you might consult a plastic surgeon — TO SAVE FACE

Moscow: U.S. wants to wreck SALT II

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda said Sunday the United States was preparing to wreck the SALT-II arms limitation treaty and that it would incur a grave responsibility if it did so.

President Reagan is due to announce Monday whether Washington will continue to observe the 1979 treaty, which was signed by Moscow and Washington but never ratified by the Americans.

In an unsigned editorial, Pravda said the Reagan administration "is raising its hand against the very foundations of international stability and is getting ready to wreck the SALT-II treaty ...

"The U.S. leadership is treading a dangerous path. It should be clear to all that if the U.S. administration steps over that threshold, it will incur grave responsibility for all the consequences."

The White House Saturday night refused to comment on reports that Mr. Reagan had decided to remain in basic compliance with the SALT-II (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) treaty but to make proportionate responses to alleged Soviet violations.

Pravda said discussions in Washington were aimed at finding a way of removing the treaty restrictions on nuclear buildups.

"The only point at issue is what method of scrapping the treaty would be less painful to the USA from the point of view of world public reaction."

"Whether the commitments assumed by the USA under the treaty should be abrogated openly and in full or whether this should be done creepingly, step by step," it said.

The U.S. has accused Moscow

of violating the accord, which runs out at the end of the year, by developing two new missiles and coding missile test data to prevent U.S. observation.

Pravda said allegations of violations were absurd, but did not go into any details.

The editorial also denounced U.S. insistence on strict verification of arms control agreements to ensure compliance as cynical and deceitful.

"Given Washington's present approach to the agreements concluded by it, soon there will be nothing left to verify ... Verification American style is merely a means of avoiding the conclusion of new disarmament agreements and subverting existing ones," it charged.

President Reagan is expected to approve two steps to keep alive the SALT-II treaty with the Soviet Union but show some muscle to Moscow, according to U.S. officials.

The two steps involve the dry-docking of a Poseidon nuclear submarine and accelerating the development of the Midgetman missile. Neither move would violate the treaty, signed by former President Jimmy Carter and the late Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev in 1979.

The Poseidon would be taken out of circulation, its missiles removed. But the submarine would not be dismantled. It could be returned to service in the future, according to U.S. officials, who spoke over the weekend on condition

they not be identified. Dry-docking the Poseidon sub would keep the United States below the treaty's ceiling of 1,200 nuclear missiles with multiple warheads when the Alaska begins sea trials in September.

The Midgetman, meanwhile, is already under development. It is not expected to be ready for testing for about two years.

The treaty permits the testing of only one new intercontinental ballistic missile on each side. Mr. Reagan has accused the Soviets in a report to Congress of testing two new missiles. The United States has tested the controversial MX.

Mr. Reagan was supposed to report again to Congress by June 1 on U.S. compliance with the SALT-II treaty and other arms agreements. The White House informed Congress the report would be delayed for a week while the president made his final decision on SALT-II.

Mr. Reagan's purpose in accelerating development of the Midgetman would be to direct a veiled warning to Moscow that he could match Soviet actions if violations persist, the officials said.

The treaty imposes limits on U.S. and Soviet long-range bombers, missiles and submarines. Mr. Reagan in 1981 pledged not to undercut its provisions provided the Soviets also adhered to the treaty.

Speeding up the Midgetman was recommended by the Pentagon. Dry-docking a Poseidon submarine was an option backed by the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Another option considered by Mr. Reagan, according to U.S. officials, was more aggressive development of strategic weapons systems that are permitted under the treaty.



SLA POST: Militiamen of the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army (SLA) Sunday man an armoured personnel carrier at a hilltop SLA position near the South Lebanese village of Jezzeine (AP wirephoto)

Moderate, radical Sikhs fight during meeting in Golden Temple

AMRITSAR, India (Agencies) — First fights broke out between militant and moderate Sikhs in their holiest shrine the Golden Temple during a meeting testing the strength of the rival factions.

Trouble broke out in the crowd of 15,000 people when militant shouted slogans praising dead extremist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Organisers of the meeting, supporters of Harchand Singh Longowal, moderate president of the main Sikh political party Akali Dal, waded into the militants with wooden sticks.

Running fights took place on the floor of the meeting hall and galleries above before the militants were forced out and pushed down two flights of stairs to the ground.

The militants, mainly members of the radical All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF), back the rival leadership of Bhindranwale's father Joginder Singh who organised a meeting of 12,000 people last Thursday to mark the first anniversary of the storming of the temple by troops.

About one hour later, the militants were still gathered outside the hall surrounded by several thousand moderates.

Parliamentary forces were on standby outside the temple but had made no move so far to intervene in the dispute.

While the fighting went on, hundreds of Sikhs were still arriving to attend the meeting which was likely to show which side had more support.

Gurdev Singh, secretary of the Longowal group, told Reuters trouble had been expected because militants tried to put up pos-

ters Saturday night praising their leaders but were stopped by moderates.

The radical posters were absent from the hall Sunday.

Longowal aides armed with wooden batons scrutinised people entering the hall to stop militants who were expected to try to disrupt the meeting.

Joga Singh, one of the guards, said they expected trouble from members of the AISSF.

Many AISSF members were among the 1,000 people who died in the army attack which captured the shrine on June 6, 1984.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi lifted a ban on the AISSF earlier this year in a bid to get peace talks started but the student organisation has shown no sign of softening its stand.

Outside the temple paramilitary forces and police were on standby in case trouble erupted at the meeting.

Hundreds of paramilitary troops armed with submachineguns and automatic weapons threw a security cordon around the shrine to prevent radicals from entering. Security was tighter than on Thursday when radicals staged a similar rally. Hundreds of police also surrounded the temple.

"We will break their heads," said volunteer guard Dilip Singh, 40.

"We will counter any attempts to disrupt our meeting with force ... We will silence them with blows," warned Gurdev Singh, secretary of the moderate faction.

The meeting began with prayers and the crowd was dominated by Sikhs in blue turbans — the colour of the moderate Akali Dal faction which represents the est-

ablishment, businessmen, landlords and rich peasants.

Landlords sent peasants to the rally in trucks and the crowd was older and more subdued than at Thursday's rally, when young radicals chanted slogans for a separate Sikh nation and raised clenched fists. Most wore turbans of saffron — the Sikh holy colour of struggle and martyrdom.

The Akali Dal moderates and radicals both claim to represent the party. They have been engaged in a fierce power struggle since May 1 when the radicals staged a coup and announced they were in command.

The moderates, representing old-time Sikh politicians, are led by Harchand Singh Longowal. They are faced by the Indian government, which hopes to isolate the radicals.

The takeover by the radicals has left the government without a single broad-based Sikh leadership with which to negotiate a solution to the Punjab problem.

The two factions make many of the same demands, share strident anti-government rhetoric and accuse the state of oppressing Sikhs. Both hail the Sikhs slain in the Golden Temple raid as martyrs.

The moderates, however, maintain they are peacefully seeking more rights for Punjab within the Indian constitution. Radical leaders have not ruled out violence, have urged Sikhs to arm themselves and said they want an autonomous Punjab with its own state constitution and flag.

Other young militants have gone even further, openly demanding a separate Sikh nation to be known as Khalistan.

Afghan garrison siege looks set to end

ISLAMABAD (R) — An 11-month rebel siege of an Afghan garrison town close to the Pakistani border looked set to end Sunday after Soviet tanks entered the town, Afghan exiles reported.

But the exiles in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar said Saturday fighting was continuing around the town of Barikot which is only one kilometre from the Pakistani border.

Soviet and Afghan government troops have been attempting for the past three weeks to break the rebel siege. On Thursday night Soviet tanks and other vehicles entered the town after helicopter-borne commandos cleared the way, the exiles said.

Exiles and Western diplomats describe the action as the biggest anti-rebel offensive for the past year and say about 8,000 Soviet troops and thousands of Afghan troops are involved.

Exile sources said it appeared almost impossible now for the rebels to continue the siege.

An Afghan guerrilla leader, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, told Reuters heavy bombing of the Barikot area had been decisive in the Soviet drive.

"The bombing gave the Mujahideen (Islamic warriors) no chance to defend themselves," said Mojaddedi, whose Afghan National Liberation Front is involved in the fighting.

Exile sources said Soviet commando units had driven guerrillas from machinegun nests atop mountains surrounding Barikot.

They said Soviet helicopters also landed commandos on both sides of the last stretch of an unimproved road to Barikot before the tanks and other vehicles moved into the garrison.

They said bombing by Soviet jets and helicopters in the area destroyed several villages and burned forests.

The push on Barikot is part of a drive by Soviet and Afghan forces to seal off guerrilla supply routes from the border, Pakistan denies either helping the guerrillas or acting as a conduit for arms supplies.

A spokesman for Jamiat-I-Islami, the largest party in northern Afghanistan, said the Barikot route had been a convenient alternative to the main infiltration trail further north.

Meanwhile Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq has for the first time accused Soviet pilots of bombing Pakistani territory along the border with Afghanistan.

Pakistan television showed Gen. Zia saying during a visit Saturday to a border village where 12 people died and 31 were wounded in a raid on May 31.

U.K., Albania reportedly holding secret talks

LONDON (AP) — British and Albanian officials have been holding secret talks to settle disputes over gold and the sinking of two British ships after World War II, the Sunday Times reported.

The meetings began shortly before the death on April 11 of Enver Hoxha, leader of the isolated Communist nation since 1944, the weekly newspaper claimed.

It quoted unidentified foreign office spokesmen as saying the talks were being held in secret at a "mutually convenient place in Europe." Other sources, it said, believed the meeting place to be in

Athens, Greece.

Albania has demanded the return of some 7,100 kilograms of gold looted by the Germans during the war. The gold is under the control of the British-French-American tripartite commission for restoration of monetary gold recovered from the Germans after the war.

At current prices, the gold is worth some \$70 million.

Britain is unwilling to release the gold, which physically is held in London and New York, until Albania settles a claim for the mining of two British destroyers in the Corfu channel in 1946 with the

loss of 40 lives.

The International Court of Justice in 1949 awarded Britain damages of £843,947 or about \$1,070,125 at present exchange rates. Albania, however, refused to pay up, British officials say, until it gets its gold back, with interest.

The day after Hoxha's death, the British government reiterated that it was willing to restore diplomatic relations with Albania "without conditions." British officials said an attempt in 1981 to restore relations, severed 1939, failed because of Albanian conditions.

Soviet spacemen use new device for manual docking

MOSCOW (R) — Two Soviet cosmonauts have docked their Soyuz T-13 with the Salyut-7 space station, using a new distance-determining device in the first reported instance of a Soviet manual docking.

Docking operations are normally carried out automatically under mission control in Moscow and have caused problems in the past, several times leading to missions being abandoned. Western experts had guessed the cosmonauts were intending to try out new equipment because of the unusually long delay between the blast-off on Thursday and the docking.

The official Soviet News Agency TASS said the docking took place at 0850 GMT Saturday.

Mission Commander Vladimir Dzhanibekov, 43, one of the world's most experienced spacemen with four previous flights,

and flight engineer Viktor Savinkhin then boarded the space station which has been unoccupied since last October.

Salyut has now been in orbit for more than three years and has undergone extensive repairs and alterations by visiting crews, two of which stayed for over seven months.

TASS said the cosmonauts had to fire their Soyuz spacecraft's engines several times to adjust their orbit in order to make the correct approach to Salyut.

They then manoeuvred to within a set distance and observed the space station's solar panels and antennae from the outside before carrying out the docking operation.

The last time a mission was abandoned because of a failure in the automatic docking system was in April 1983.

U.S. police may find more bodies where 3 were found

SAN ANDREAS, California (AP) — There is a strong possibility that more human remains may be found at a rural home where authorities uncovered the skeletons of two adults and a child, officials have said.

The bones, some burned and decomposing, were found Friday on three acres surrounding the home which authorities said was used by Leonard Lake, who died Thursday in police custody after apparently swallowing a poison pill.

Lake had been arrested four days earlier on a weapons charge and for driving the stolen car belonging to one of several people missing in the case.

Police believe a San Francisco video producer, his wife and child may have been victims, and have said four people are missing from the house next door to the home. Police also are investigating a possible connection to a missing San Francisco car dealer, whose car Lake was driving.

There is a "strong possibility" that there are more remains around the home in the Sierra Foothills in nearby West Point, about 150 miles east of San Francisco, Calaveras County Sheriff Claude Ballard said Saturday.

The investigation could take months, and Lake's former wife was to be brought to the home, said Ballard. He said she was not a suspect.

Lake was arrested after he interceded in an argument involving a friend and workers at a south San Francisco lumber company. The friend, identified by police as former convict and Marine Lance Cpl. Charles Chapp Ng, 24, fled before police arrived.

An arrest warrant was being prepared for Ng, said Ballard. San Francisco Police Chief Cornelius Murphy called the investigation "probably the most significant case in Calaveras County history, and probably one of the most significant cases in San Francisco (history)."

"The implications are far-reaching and at this point we really don't know how far it's going to go," he said.

Berlin Wall is a way of life after nearly 24 years

BERLIN (AP) — "The wall is beautiful," said Guenther Schroeder, a visiting schoolteacher from Leipzig, pointing to the newly painted wall that shut off his view of West Berlin on the other side of the Brandenburg Gate.

"We must be thankful to our government for protecting us from the provocations coming from the other side, where Western militarists have set up an armed camp of the North Atlantic alliance which is pointed like a dagger at the heart of the German Democratic Republic," Mr. Schroeder told his class of 12-year-olds without a trace of a smile.

With liberal quantities of white paint, the Communist government over the last few months has painted huge rectangular patterns on the dark gray concrete that have a camouflage effect.

The wall is lined with signs proclaiming it as the "state frontier of the German Democratic Republic." The expression "East Germany" is taboo.

The 160-kilometre long electrified wall studded with machine-gun posts that "protect" East Germany from the West Berlin enclave has become less of an eyesore from the eastern side.

East Germans still are shot down by Communist border guards while trying to escape into West Berlin, which is 170 kilometres inside East Germany. There have been 74 confirmed deaths since the wall was built. Those who are caught are dragged back to East Germany and put on trial for a crime known as "flight from the republic."

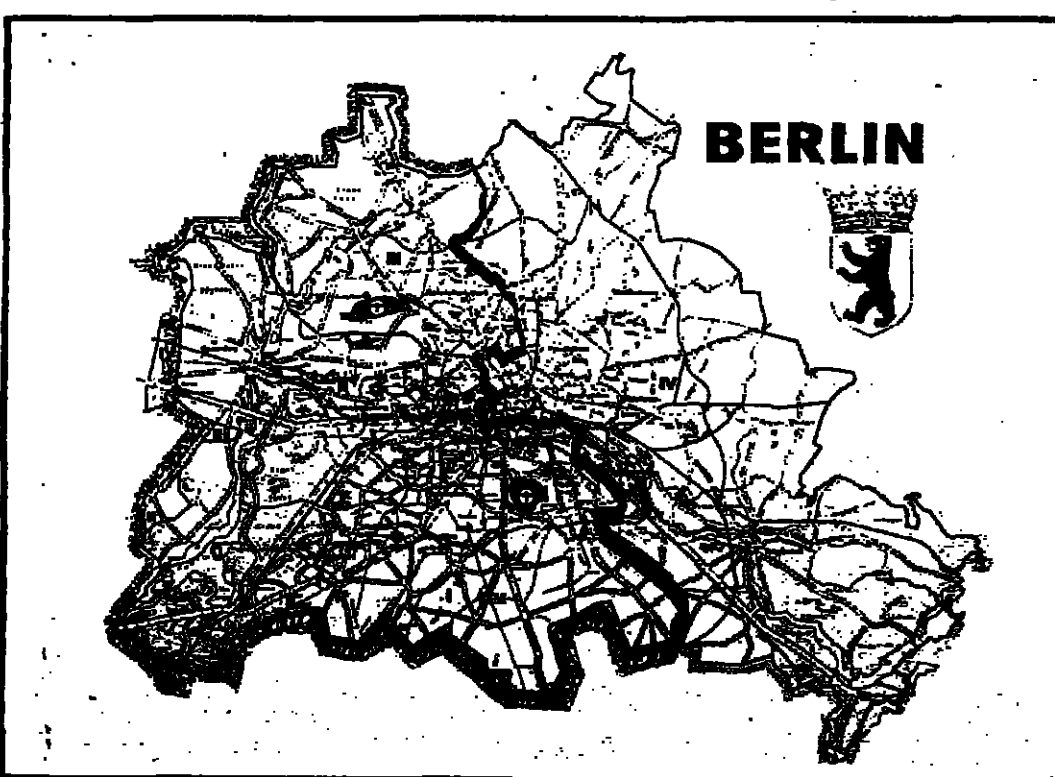
The white paint, familiarity and less harsh living conditions have helped many East Berliners adjust to the wall's presence.

"I just don't think about it," said a 30-year-old secretary who asked not to be identified by name. "I never look in that direction when I go past. My life just goes on as though it didn't exist."

Difficulties arise only when her children, aged three and five, ask her why the wall is there.

"That is sometimes a real problem," she admits.

She has never been in the West



but speaks fluent English. She knows all about life in the West, she explained, because West German television programmes are visible in more than 80 per cent of East German territory.

West German relatives are allowed regular visits, and they come loaded with unobtainable luxuries like modern clothes, good coffee or electronic gadgets.

Nonetheless, there have been enormous improvements in East Berlin in the two decades since the border was sealed.

Some of the improvements are not even welcome: Since many families now have a car — usually after a wait of several years — East Berliners now suffer from traffic jams and parking problems. Some East Germans, such as auto mechanics or owners of small workshops who earn relatively high wages, even save enough money to buy a weekend house in the country.

The government's extensive building programme is visible in

almost every street, while historic churches and other rare remnants of the past are being restored in the heart of East Berlin.

The long lines of poorly dressed East Germans that once formed daily for necessities as milk and bread have vanished. Food stores are stocked with local produce and even oranges and lemons — imported from Cuba — are often available.

A modern supermarket on Karl Marx Avenue — once named after Joseph Stalin — stocks French olive oil, West German wine and Italian cheese.

"We have almost everything," said a journalist with the badge of the ruling Socialist Unity (Communist Party) button in his lapel who asked not to be identified by name. "But some people never stop complaining, because the neighbour's grass is always greener."

East Germany has emerged from its war ruins to become the Soviet Bloc's main industrial

power behind the Soviet Union.

The age-old high traditions of the stage, opera and concert hall are carefully maintained as a hallmark of the German Democratic Republic. But much of the literature is blighted by party censorship.

American, French and British soldiers in uniform are allowed freely into East Berlin — and Soviet soldiers into West Berlin — under provisions of the postwar four power agreements.

Checkpoint Charlie and the other crossing points in the wall have been spruced up on the East German side. Every traveller has to go through complex formalities and pass through four successive steel and concrete barriers, each with its guards.

On the Western side, there are virtually no controls.

West Berlin subway trains still run under East Berlin streets without stopping. Their stations in East Berlin are closed and sealed, but they still figure on official maps.



China launches drive to save pandas

PEKING (R) — Chinese zoologists will study the giant panda's fertility pattern as part of a comprehensive study aimed at helping the threatened species to survive, the New China News Agency said Sunday. Experts hope their attempted analysis of the animals' reproductive habits will make it easier to breed them artificially in captivity, it said.

The five-year study is to take place in China's south western Sichuan province, where an estimated 1,000 giant pandas live in reserves. Small numbers are believed to subsist in neighbouring Gansu and Shaanxi provinces. The rare animals have not been sighted elsewhere. There has been a full-scale alert among conservationists in Sichuan since 1983 when large tracts of arrow bamboo began to die off, depriving the pandas of their staple food. The Chinese media have regularly chronicled attempts to rescue pandas from starvation, including luring the shy, normally vegetarian animals down from their barren mountain fastnesses with a trail of pork chops.

Two major maritime salvage companies have been locked in discord over apportionment of more than \$2.6 million for saving the Hong Kong container ship Oriental Importer in the Gulf waters a week ago, the Bahrain newspaper Gulf Daily News reported Sunday. The vessel was struck with rockets fired by Iranian warplanes and left ablaze off the Saudi Arabian coast on June 1. Six salvage tugboats battled the blaze and managed to extinguish it. But the salvage firm which claimed it got there first and saved the Oriental Importer claimed that behind the scenes dealing cost it the salvage contract. The English-language newspaper said. It said that the Dutch salvage company Wismulder has placed an "arrest order" on the vessel and its cargo of containers after its rival firm, Selco, had been given the contract. Neither the ship nor its cargo can be touched before a deposit is placed with the Lloyds underwriters in London to cover the value of Wismulder's salvage claim, the paper said. "We did most of the work, we had three tugs there, we put the fire out," the paper quoted an unidentified spokesman for Wismulder as saying. "It was only after we put out the blaze that we were told the contract had been awarded to Selco."

Over 8,000 pieces of art stolen in Italy

ROME (AP) — Thieves with an eye for the beautiful, old and precious stole 8,620 pieces of art and antiquities from Italian churches and collections in 1984, an Italian newspaper has reported. Antique objects were on the top of the list of preferred booty, followed by paintings and sculpture, the Rome daily La Repubblica said. A special police unit that investigates art thefts reported that 365 churches, 293 private homes and 35 museums fell victim to thievery last year, according to the newspaper. Experts say church thefts in particular have increased in recent years because antique religious art works have become popular and risen in market value. In addition, churches and their precious contents are often left unguarded. Police recovered 7,523 stolen works in 1984, mostly books, manuscripts and items stolen from archaeological zones, La Repubblica said. Naples police made an important recovery earlier this week when they found nine 15th-Century statuettes, part of the 94 that make up a precious triptych stolen from the Certosa of Pavia last August.

Hundreds queue to touch lions for luck

HONG KONG (R) — Hundreds of people have queued up to pat two bronze lions as they returned to guard the new headquarters of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Geo-

mancer Lung King Cheun, who advised the bank on the installation, said "a pat of the lions brings good luck." Earlier, Lung used a Chinese compass to ensure an auspicious position for the massive guards, removed from the old bank headquarters in 1982. The lions, each weighing a ton, were cast in Shanghai in the 1930s and guarded the old bank building for some 45 years. They were taken away by the Japanese during World War II and returned to Hong Kong in 1946.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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THEFT PREVENTION

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J102
♥ 86
♦ K7
♣ AKJ1084

WEST
♠ 997
♥ Q953
♦ A854
♣ 76

EAST
♠ AK53
♥ J742
♦ J6
♣ 952

SOUTH
♠ 864
♥ AK10
♦ Q10932
♣ Q3

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣. You cannot always blame the opening leader if he does not find the right attack at trick one, before he has had an opportunity to inspect the dummy. But if someone fails to find the right play at trick two, it is often because he did not stop to work out the possibilities.

While the final contract certainly does not rank among the world's best, it is hard to blame either player for getting there. South was worth another bid, and two no

trump was the logical choice. North's raise to game was based on the fact his club suit was going to produce five or six tricks.

There is no reason why West should not lead a heart against three no trump. After capturing East's jack with the ace, declarer could count only eight tricks. So at trick two he led low diamond. West ducked, he king won and declarer entered home with nine tricks.

West should not have been taken in by declarer's falsecard at trick one or his diamond play at trick two. If East had the king of hearts, he would have played that card at trick one, not the knave. And when declarer did not go after the club suit at trick two, he became marked with the queen of clubs. Thus South, who was a passed hand, was already proved to have 9 points — 7 in hearts and 2 in clubs. He had room for only one more honor card in his hand.

Obviously, if that honor was in spades the defense was doomed because the king of diamonds would be declarer's ninth trick. The contract could be defeated only if the defenders could take four spade tricks. Therefore, West should fly in with the ace of diamonds and shift to the queen of spades and another — down one.

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